

B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
British Columbia's Community Water Supply Sources

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Media Release

ALLIANCE CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO END LOGGING, ROAD BUILDING, AND MINING SPECULATION IN PEACHLAND COMMUNITY WATERSHED

Peachland – The BC Tap Water Alliance documented (April 28th - May 10th) numerous problematic impacts from forestry operations in the District of Peachland's Community Drinking Watershed, Peachland Creek. [[See Backgrounder Photo Document](#)] The District also obtains its water supply from a second source, the Trepanier watershed, which was only partially investigated. Clear-cut logging and forestry road networks in moderate to steep terrain destabilize forest soils due to water runoff and create larger snowpack accumulations than within intact forest stands, causing the snow to melt more quickly and forcibly.

A new, large landslide was discovered below the overly steep slopes of the recently re-activated (2015-2016) Munro Forest Service switchback road by Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd., located less than one kilometer above the Peachland Creek water intake. This was the second large landslide occurrence at this site since March 2017, the first of which cascaded down and blocked Peachland Creek. The 2017 slide caused a significant turbidity plume event which fouled the District's water supply reservoir, causing the reservoir to fill up with sediments, along with the issuance of a boil water advisory. Authorities then contracted to have a section of Peachland Creek re-routed away from the bottom of the landslide. A kilometer further up the same logging road, many blocked culverts, the erosion of the road prism, slumping of lengthy sections of glacial till cut-slopes, and a road failure were documented. These failures on the Munro access road caused silt and mud to be transported into Peachland Creek, and redirected concentrated water runoff from road ditches onto lower slopes.

Similar, and more numerous forestry problems were documented in the Greata Creek tributary watershed, where Tolko Industries Ltd. (Tolko) has a forest license. Throughout a series of recent clear-cuts and logging roads on either side of Greata Creek were road failures and cut-slope erosion, where glacial silt sediments were cumulatively transported into the water supply. Cattle livestock holding pens and cattle stream crossings were also noted, where last year's cattle faeces dotted the Greata landscapes. The area in which controversial mining exploration is taking place, at the headwaters of Greata Creek, was also documented.

In the upper western Peachland watershed, near and surrounding the Wilson Lakes area, where Tolko and the Westbank First Nation (Ntityix Resources LP) have forest tenures, are large, integrated clearcuts and road networks. The recent logging activities above Wilson Lakes have created excessive and erratic water runoff patterns, responsible for washing out part of the paved Princeton access road over the last two years, along with washing out a section of BC Hydro's right-of-way road located above the Princeton road.

"The excessive forestry activities I witnessed in the Peachland Community Watershed disturbed and saddened me," said Will Koop, Coordinator of the B.C. Tap Water Alliance. "We are calling upon the BC government to immediately end logging and road building activities in the Peachland Community Watershed which have degraded the water supply. Mine development in a community watershed is inappropriate and offensive, amply documented by governments and the media from the Peachland headwaters Brenda Mine operations since the late 1960s, including a recent washout near the Brenda tailings dam which severely impacted the Trepanier water supply."

-30-

Internet Links to: [Letter to Government](#); and, [Backgrounder Photo Document](#).