



# THE WATER WEALTH DECLARATION

Fraser Valley 2014

## WHEREAS

- Fresh water is our most precious natural asset, flowing through all living things and essential to our survival. **Our waters are among the most pure and abundant in the world; they nourish the land and our crops, grow our green forests and sustain our salmon.**
- No matter the ideology of government, the state of the economy, or the laws of the day, we will always need water. For thousands of years, First Nations have been stewards of our home waters, the source of their rights and title, and a relationship that we have all benefitted from. **As long as we continue to take care of our water wealth, together we will prosper, and our children will always have a home to return to.**
- Today, the waters of the Fraser Valley are under unprecedented threat from industrial activity and development. But decisions about our local streams and aquifers are being made far away in Ottawa and Victoria under the influence of powerful corporate lobbies. **We, the people who live here, currently have little say in the decisions that affect the wealth of our pure and flowing water.**

## THEREFORE

**To ensure that our waters are protected as they should be, I PLEDGE to:**

- CALL** on Decision Makers to prioritize pure, productive and free flowing community waterways.
- SUPPORT 100%** community control over decisions that impact our local home waters, including the right to say 'yes' or 'no' to proposals that affect us.
- DEMAND** that our government enact strong laws to safeguard our home waters from threats such as:
  - toxic spills from the Kinder Morgan heavy oil pipeline
  - damage to salmon & fish habitat from industrial gravel mining and waste disposal
  - harm to rivers from private power projects
  - contamination from agricultural chemicals and polluted runoff