



Please note Dr. Stanwick's telephone number (250) 519-7066 and fax number (250) 519-7079

April 18, 2006

Jack Hull, P. Eng., MBA
General Manager
CRD Water Services
479 Island Highway
Victoria, BC V9B 1H7

Dear Mr. Hull:

Re: Remove Beaver from Greater Victoria Water Supply Area

It is my understanding that, in at least the last decade, beaver (*Castor canadensis*) have never been observed inside the boundaries of the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply Area. Therefore, the recent report of a beaver being found within these boundaries is disturbing because these rodents are known to carry the parasites *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* and the bacterium *Leptospira*. Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton, BC Centre for Disease Control, has described these animals as an important vector in the transmission of human water-borne disease within the Province of British Columbia.

The Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply System is an unfiltered drinking water supply which uses a multiple barrier approach to prevent contaminants from entering the drinking water. Therefore, it is very important that you not allow any beaver to compromise your source water protection barrier since otherwise it places too great a reliance upon ultraviolet light as the final barrier to kill these parasites.

It is my firm expectation that you will take all necessary steps and precautions to protect the integrity of the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply Area and prevent the incursion of beaver into that area. In this way, you will ensure the continuing safety of Greater Victoria's drinking water.

Yours sincerely,

Richard S. Stanwick, M.D., M.Sc., FRCPC, F.A.A.P.
Chief Medical Health Officer

- c.c. Barry Boettger, Provincial Drinking Water Officer, BC Ministry of Health
Robin Gear, Regional Drinking Water Coordinator, Vancouver Island Health Authority
Gary Gibson, Senior Environmental Health, Vancouver Island Health Authority, South Island
John Spencer, Public Health Engineer, Vancouver Island Health Authority
Gordon Joyce, Manager, Watershed Protection Division, CRD Water Services
Joel Ussery, Superintendent, Resource Planning Section, CRD Water Services
Stewart Irwin, Manager, Water Quality Division, CRD Water Services