



Splatsin

PO Box 460 Enderby BC V0E 1V0
5775 Old Vernon Road

Tel: (250) 838-6496
Fax: (250) 838-2131
www.splatsin.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Splatsin joins forces with Save Hullcar Aquifer Team to protect precious resource

Splatsin (Enderby, BC), Secwepemc Nation, February 29, 2016 Splatsin and the Save Hullcar Aquifer Team (SHAT) are joining forces to protect their shared resource, the Hullcar aquifers. The two aquifers provide drinking and irrigation water to more than 300 people on the Steele Springs Waterworks District, private well owners and wells on two reserve properties in the Hullcar valley and surrounding area in the Township of Spallumcheen.

Two drinking water advisories for excessive nitrate contamination have been issued by Interior Health Authority and nitrate levels have increased 30 per cent over two years. Monthly testing shows levels remain above the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) of 10 ppm (with the exception of four months in the summer of 2015). Nitrates are considered to be a health risk to pregnant women, a developing fetus, babies under 6 months of age, the elderly and individuals with weakened immune systems.

"We have been concerned about this for a few years," said Splatsin Councilor George William. "There are several young women who are pregnant on our reserves and they are worried about exactly what is in their wells. When SHAT was formed with the goal of protecting and remediating the aquifer we felt we could join them for the betterment of the broader community."

A request for a Hazard Abatement and Protection Order under the Drinking Water Protection Act of the Ministry of Health was recently released by SHAT.

"The request seeks a moratorium on the spraying of liquid manure effluent from a 1,000-cow dairy farm owned by HS Jansen and Sons on a 220-acre field above Aquifer #103 and adjacent to Steele Springs. The dairy was pinpointed as the source of the nitrates by Senior Environmental Protection Officer Mike Reiner, and supported by Senior Hydro-geologist Skye Thompson, in a compliance order issued to the farm in March 2014," explains SHAT co-chair Al Price.

Splatsin Chief Wayne Christian adds, "Water is the lifeblood of all our communities, a precious natural resource for all of us, and to allow it to be contaminated is a disgrace."

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Splatsin: Kukpi7 Wayne Christian 250-838-6496

Save Hullcar Aquifer Team: Al Price 250-546-0547