Dear Elected Officials:

Federal Minister of Environment Hon. S. Guilbeault,
Federal Minister of Agri-Food and Agriculture Canada, Hon. M.C Bibeau,
B.C. Provincial Minister of Environment, Lands & Parks, Hon. G. Heyman,
B.C. Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. L. Popham,
Mr. Bob Fleming, Director of Regional District Of North Okanagan,
Mr. Kevin Acton, Mayor of Lumby,
Mr. Hank Cameron, Director Area E, RDNO
Mr. Rick Fairbairn, Director Area D, RDNO

I am the bearer of worrisome news and I am seeking some clarifications regarding this situation . The attached recent water quality report for some of our waterways in the Cherryville B.C. should normally raise alarms and cause beach closures given the high E. Coli measurements. The criteria for closing beaches is 200 or greater count of E. Coli. The values for Cherry Creek at 565 and for the Shuswap River downstream from Cherryville at 984. Total coliform values as well are beyond measuring limit. You will note that above the old core rural area of Cherryville the E. Coli count is 23 and rises to 984 once we are past Cherryville.

I started water quality measurements in 2004 because as a researcher I was curious to know how a "clean" river varies in its water quality. This led to a small local group the Cherryville Water Stewards to initiate a local sampling regime to which I continue to contribute as part of my continued analysis of the Shuswap river. Now that we have a limited but reasonable time series of almost 18 years of water quality parameters within our local hydrological basins, notably the Upper Shuswap River (two locations), as well as

Cherry, Ferry, Reiter creeks

When we started seeing increases in E. Coli, in recent years and especially last summer, we were seeing E. Coli counts that would have normally cause posting and closing of a beach due to E. Coli. People are camping along and swimming in the river. They may not be locals and so would not know of the recent developments in what I call old rural Cherryville area. Several of the original farm homesteads were purchased by an individual/business, the land was clear cut and the farms merged into one area which has the look, aroma and output of what one would normally call a Feed Lot. With up to several hundred animals within the hydrological basins of both Cherry and Ferry creek, it would be natural to expect an increase in E. Coli but also associated Nitrate and Ammonia further indicating the source of these increases. Seems to be common sense however for us to prove the link between the "feed lot" and increase in coliforms and urea related by-products, would be prohibitively expensive and even then I believe that the Right to Farm in BC would perhaps still allow this.

I understand that it is normal for higher E. Coli counts during freshet given normal native animal populations and the flushing effect of increased surface runoff and snow melt. However, our numbers are alarming. Will we need to see people get sick or even hopefully not die as a result of contamination.

Last summer when I wanted to contact the person in our area responsible to post and warn of beach contamination, I was transferred from initially Public Health, to BC Ministry of Environment and then our RDNO Regional District of North Okanagan and was never able to get an answer or speak with that individual. Now, almost one year later I am faced with this same alarming situation. What I request from those

of you I am contacting is the answer to the following questions:

- Who is responsible in the Cherryville area to post and close and beach due to bacterial contamination ?
- Is there a Regional, Provincial or Federal definition or guideline of a Feed Lot? With respect to area, number of animals or location and impact on immediate environment.

I hope I get some clear answers even if it is, no one is responsible and there are not definitions or guidelines for Agricultural Feed Lots. I trust I will get more substantive answers and clarifications.

Thank you, merci, Claude Labine .

Claude Labine, M. Sc.
Cherryville, BC