

Bill 44

- Bill 44 supports new drainage regulations that were introduced in Fall 2015
- The intent is to organize, control and allow drainage projects
- Process is focused on ensuring there is an adequate outlet and landowner permission
- This is a significant undertaking and it will take up to 10 years to bring drainage works into compliance
- Bill 44 removes onerous , outdated, expensive complaint process
- New complaint process is more timely and streamlined; it has been used since the new regs were introduced
- If there is a complaint by someone affected, the proponent of the drainage work will be asked to get a drainage permit, which would include getting landowner permission
- With this new process, the current role of the Water Appeal Board is no longer necessary (either you have permission to drain on your neighbours land or you don't; either you have an adequate outlet or you don't)
- However, the legislation still provides for the appointment of a board/committee
- Government recognizes there is still a role for an advisory committee and will continue to work with stakeholders to define what that role may be
- Bill 44 increases the maximum level to up to \$1 million/day, which brings it line with the Environmental Protection Act, which governs the majority of environmental activity in the province
- This is only an increase in the maximum level, which is rarely used and only in extreme circumstances
- Any fines would be imposed by the court and fines of that magnitude would not be sought or imposed by WSA
- There are always a range of fines with the maximum level reserved for the most severe offences that cause significant damage and harm
- The intent is bring drainage works into compliance, not levy fines
- The concerns that have been raised can be addressed through improved communication
- Government is committed to continuing to work with stakeholders to address any concerns and implementing the new process
- This includes continuing to provide information and support to C&Ds, Watershed Associations, RMs and producers