Water Sustainable act was passed Feb 12, 2015
1 a very modest charge to water users.
Water Wealth Project gave mixed reviews, at best it would only recover the cost of implementing the act, excluding for the first time groundwater regulations. Environment minister Mary Polak says the new fee structure will give farmers ask affordability; but Dan Stepher of Water Watch said the new rate will still be the lowest in Canada. He supports the govts goal of giving people equitable pricing & keep prices for food production low for such things as irrigation, crop washing & greenhouse use. eg a farmer with 100 cows will see annual licence fees go from $25 to $50 - a 10A nursery farm currently paying $44 annually will increase to $62. It's doubled for some uses like fracking. It comes into effect 2016. Groundwater inventories and aquifers properly accounted for so it doesn't go far enough to protect water resources used by Industrial Co's such as Nestlé.

This is the first time ever in BC that water coming from our aquifer will come at a cost - at least its a positive first step.

2 Gravel removal by Seabird Island First Nation is approved by both Federal & prov. bodies. A land lease tenure was offered, and water use approval was given by Ministry of Forests, Land & Natural Resources Operations on Feb 6. They will be able to remove 105,000 cubic m of gravel from the Fraser until March 15. A provincial

minister stressed that any impact to the river habitat from the work will be monitored and compensated down the line - the Fraser River Stewardship committee was shocked, the main reason for not allowing it is habitat, but above all the venture is just for commercial gravel mining purposes. It is a terrible precedent. From access to information and Privacy, the proposed gravel removal is solely for the purpose of obtaining construction aggregates & there are no known effective flood protection from it. The mine will significantly alter & disrupt stream habitat & change local hydrology, effect sedimentology at this location & east for fish & other species. The area is an extremely good juvenile Chinook habitat & will destroy this area without any meaningful mitigation or compensation. The area is also known for one of 2 known remaining white Sturgeon spawning areas in the lower Fraser, which are federal listed species at risk. Its an important spawning habitat based on oral testimony & assessment on the observation of substantial no. of mature adults located in this area during 2013 & 14, spawning seasons. Eggs & embryos have been captured in the site confirming that spawning has take place - The Fraser River Stewardship Committee is of the opinion that the mine will not only destroy juvenile chinook Salmon rearing habitat but also has potential to impact spawning & incubation habitat.

of white sturgeon. Young sturgeon born into the population of fish are already in steep decline, this may be due in part to extensive gravel mining over the last 20 yrs. They felt that mining in this location is like putting a gravel mine in the Lower Adams R where world famous Fraser R Sockeye spawn. Again, why would the govt allow this precious piece of BC to be destroyed. They are urging the authorities & agencies to refuse the application.

2 The independent govt ordered report on the Polly Dixie was released Feb 1, 2015. It found that the spill of silt & water into nearby lakes & rivers was caused by an inadequately designed dam that didn't allow for drainage and erosion failures associated with glacial till beneath the pond – an inadequate design. Minister Bill Bennett ordered BC's chief inspector of mines to require all operating mines with similar tailings ponds to find out what kind of foundation material was under the dams. Norbert Morgenstern, a geotechnical engineer who has worked on 140 dam projects worldwide, said that not taking the glacial lake into account was like loading the gun, building with a steep slope, & pulled the trigger; all these 3 things were the root cause of the failure. Bennett said no one knew that the material was there or didn't understand the character of it. He said the govt would act on all recommendations the panel gave – that the province move to eliminate such water impoundments across the province both in new & closed mines & called for dry disposal of tailings for tailings lakes to work differently

has to go right all the time from, but human error inevitably happens; could be inconsistent management, or undetected weakness in foundation or by over-topping, or internal erosion, and many catastrophic and more drainage; So that why they called on the prov to give up on this archaic tailings dam technology. Much of the world has moved toward modern alternatives such as dry stacking established in Alaska, Chili and other places. BC has not So far nothing has been done.

4 On the bright side there had 2 new baby orcas born recently. They do have a high mortality, about ½ don't make it thru the first year but it's still great news.

There are several animals on the special concern list - the Northern Pacific rattler in the Okanagan region. The burrowing owl is one in the most endangered bird list in the 4 western provinces. The badger is also one of Canada's most endangered species. Short tailed weasel who live in BC's interior & lower mainland etc at risk on Vancouver Island & Haida Gwaii. Wolverine are also endangered as they need huge areas to support a breeding pop - the remaining strongholds are in the Yukon & the wilds of BC - The Pacific water shrew is at risk due to habitat loss from urban development & logging - it lives in streams, wetlands - lakeheads and other wet bodies from Hope to W Vancouver

This past week they're been talking about the

sea gulls falling by 1/2 in the last 30 yrs.
Diet being the main reason - they can eat anyt
but it seems they are relying too much on gar
& they are not getting enough of what they shou
have -- historically they were mostly on a
marine diet & it's felt that areas with high
protein food must be critical. They can stay al
but it shows up in the production of offspr
It's vital that more focus is put on historic
ecosystems along the coast including fish
populations