



## Walkerton Inquiry Submission

### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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***By: Conservation Ontario***

#### **ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES SUBMIT PAPER TO WALKERTON INQUIRY**

Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization for Ontario's 38 Conservation Authorities, released today the research paper it prepared for the Walkerton Inquiry.

The paper, entitled *'The Importance of Watershed Management In Protecting Ontario's Drinking Water Supplies'*, will be posted on the Walkerton Inquiry website at [www.walkertoninquiry.com](http://www.walkertoninquiry.com) on March 20<sup>th</sup>, where it will be available for public review and comment.

The document describes the science and role of *watershed* management in protecting both the quality and quantity of surface and ground water.

"Conservation Authorities have been managing water resources within the Province of Ontario since 1946", stated Rick Potter, Chairman of Conservation Ontario. "As locally based organizations, we respond to the needs of the watershed, applying responsible management practices and advocating 'preventative' measures as the means to a healthy sustainable environment"

Conservation Authorities across Ontario work with numerous partners including the provincial and federal governments, municipalities, and watershed residents in addressing the environmental needs of the watershed.

"Each Conservation Authority is extremely knowledgeable of their own watershed resources, needs and concerns", reported Potter. "Programs are undertaken in the context of the larger picture or the 'watershed' model, where everything is connected to everything else. In addition, Conservation Authorities have a solid reputation in addressing 'source' problems. Based on a review of water management in Ontario, our paper provides recommendations that focus on ways the province could improve on current practices, and strengthen the role that watershed management plays in protecting the long term security of drinking water supplies."

Conservation Authorities are recognized across Ontario and throughout the world for their role as effective 'watershed' resource managers. "We are honoured to be a part of the Walkerton Public Hearing and look forward to presenting our paper on the integrated approach to watershed management", commented Potter.

To voice your comments on the Conservation Authorities' proposal to the Walkerton Inquiry, please visit [www.walkertoninquiry.com](http://www.walkertoninquiry.com).

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***For more information, please contact:  
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