

.....for immediate release

June 8, 2000

Citizens Organize to Demand Water Inquiry Status

A broad based coalition of citizens has formed the Concerned Walkerton Citizens. The group, consisting of doctors, public servants, homemakers, retirees, an accountant, power workers and small businesspeople is seeking intervener status at the upcoming public inquiry into the Walkerton Water tragedy. The mission statement of the group reads as follows:

The CWC - Concerned Walkerton Citizens - seek intervener status in the Public Inquiry probing the Walkerton E. Coli outbreak. We require direct input into the terms of reference for the inquiry. We believe our full participation is vital to restore the confidence of all citizens of Ontario in the government's ability to ensure the safety of our drinking water supply.

The group has enlisted the help of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) to appeal to the Attorney-General for intervener funding and status. This appeal was submitted by the CWC's lawyers this afternoon.

In addition to seeking inquiry status the CWC will also work to lobby officials of Brockton Council to respond to residents' concerns in a more timely manner.

The CWC will hold its first public meeting on Thursday, June 15 at 8 p.m. in the Bruce Room of the Hartley House in Walkerton.

For more information contact:

Bruce Davidson 881-3688
Todd Huntley 881-0456
Dave Mullen 881-2698
Chris Peabody 881-2318
Bernie Range 881-0576