

News Release Communiqué



Ministry of the Environment Ministère de l'Environnement

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca>

November 26, 1999

06499NR

Ontario re-affirms commitment to protect water resources on eve of federal-provincial meeting

The Ontario Government's leadership on, and continuing commitment to the conservation and protection of provincial water resources was reaffirmed today by Environment Minister Tony Clement.

"A plentiful supply of clean water is essential to the prosperity and well-being of the people of Ontario," Clement said. "The Harris government has taken swift and decisive action to protect our precious water resources. Ontario was the first province to file a conservation-based regulation to prevent the transfer of water out of major water basins, including the Great Lakes."

"Our Great Lakes neighbours have joined us in pledging to protect the waters of the Great Lakes basin," he added.

Clement's comments precede a meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment on Nov. 29 and 30, 1999 in Kananaskis, Alberta. The federal government plans to present a draft Canada-wide accord that will call for the commitment of all provinces and territories to act to prevent bulk water removal from Canadian watersheds.

"I am pleased to see the federal government moving in the direction that we've already taken in Ontario," Clement said.

Ontario's *Water Taking and Transfer Regulation*, which came into effect April 30, 1999, prohibits the transfer of water from three water basins: the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Nelson and Hudson Bay basins. As well, the regulation tightens requirements for the issue of permits to take water from Ontario waterways.

"I look forward to receiving the accord being proposed by the federal government," Clement said. "Our priority remains the preservation and improvement of Ontario's water resources."

- 30 -

* Il existe une version française de ce document

For further information:

John Steele, Communications Branch, (416) 314-6653
Flora Cirinna, Minister's Office, (416) 314-7826