



Status of Part Two Recommendations Report of the Walkerton Inquiry

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PART TWO RECOMMENDATIONS 2 Recommendations Complete to Date 70 Recommendations Currently Underway 14 Recommendations are Being Addressed 7 Require Federal Involvement	Status
Source Protection (Chapter 1)	
Recommendation 1 Drinking water sources should be protected by developing watershed-based source protection plans. Source protection plans should be required for all watersheds in Ontario.	Underway - Source Protection
Recommendation 2 The Ministry of the Environment should ensure that draft source protection plans are prepared through an inclusive process of local consultation. Where appropriate, this process should be managed by conservation authorities.	Underway - Source Protection
Recommendation 3 Draft source protection plans should be reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment and subject to ministry approval.	Underway - Source Protection
Recommendation 4 Provincial government decisions that affect the quality of drinking water sources must be consistent with approved source protection plans.	Underway - Source Protection
Recommendation 5 Where the potential exists for a significant direct threat to drinking water sources, municipal official plans and decisions must be consistent with the applicable source protection plan. Otherwise,	Underway - Source Protection

<p>municipal official plans and decisions should have regard to the source protection plan. The plans should designate areas where consistency is required.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The provincial government should provide for limited rights of appeal to challenge source protection plans, and provincial and municipal decisions that are inconsistent with the plans.</p>	Underway - Source Protection
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>The provincial government should ensure that sufficient funds are available to complete the planning and adoption of source protection plans.</p>	Underway - Source Protection
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>Conservation authorities (or, in their absence, the Ministry of the Environment) should be responsible for implementing local initiatives to educate landowners, industry, and the public about the requirements and importance of drinking water source protection.</p>	Underway - Source Protection
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>Septic systems should be inspected as a condition for the transfer of a deed.</p>	Underway - Source Protection
<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should not issue Certificates of Approval for the spreading of waste materials unless they are compatible with the applicable source protection plan.</p>	Underway - Source Protection a Nutrient Managemer Act (NMA)
<p>Recommendation 11</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should take the lead role in regulating the potential impacts of farm activities on drinking water sources. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs should provide technical support to the Ministry of the Environment and should continue to advise farmers about the protection of drinking water sources.</p>	Underway - NMA and Source Protection
<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>Where necessary, the Ministry of the Environment should establish minimum regulatory requirements for agricultural activities that generate impacts on drinking water sources.</p>	Underway - NMA and Source Protection
<p>Recommendation 13</p>	Underway -

<p>All large or intensive farms, and all farms in areas designated as sensitive or high-risk by the applicable source protection plan, should be required to develop binding individual water protection plans consistent with the source protection plan.</p>	<p>NMA and Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 14</p> <p>Once a farm has in place an individual water protection plan that is consistent with the applicable source protection plan, municipalities should not have the authority to require that farm to meet a higher standard of protection of drinking water sources than that which is laid out in the farm's water protection plan.</p>	<p>Underway - NMA and Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 15</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, agricultural groups, conservation authorities, municipalities, and other interested groups to create a provincial framework for developing individual farm water protection plans.</p>	<p>Underway - NMA and Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 16</p> <p>The provincial government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, should establish a system of cost-share incentives for water protection projects on farms.</p>	<p>Underway - NMA and Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 17</p> <p>The regulation of other industries by the provincial government and by municipalities must be consistent with provincially approved source protection plans.</p>	<p>Underway - Source Protection and NMA</p>
<p>Standards (Chapter 5)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 18</p> <p>In setting drinking water quality standards, the objective should be such that, if the standards are met, a reasonable and informed person would feel safe drinking the water.</p>	<p>Underway - Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)</p>
<p>Recommendation 19</p> <p>Standards setting should be based on a precautionary approach, particularly with respect to contaminants whose effects on human health are unknown.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and NMA</p>
<p>Recommendation 20</p>	<p>Federal Involvement</p>

Regarding drinking water quality research, I encourage Health Canada and other agencies to adopt as a priority the development of sufficiently detailed definitions of the susceptibility of vulnerable population groups to drinking water contaminant exposures to allow appropriate adjustments in drinking water quality guidelines.	Needed
Recommendation 21 I suggest that the federal-provincial process for proposing drinking water quality guidelines be refined to provide for greater transparency and public participation.	Federal Involvement Needed
Recommendation 22 I suggest that the Federal-Provincial Subcommittee on Drinking Water focus on drinking water quality guidelines. I encourage Health Canada to commit the required scientific support to the federal-provincial process for proposing drinking water quality guidelines.	Federal Involvement Needed
Recommendation 23 I encourage the federal government to adopt standards that are as stringent as, or more stringent than, Ontario Regulation 459/00 for all federal facilities, Indian reserves, national parks, military installations, and other lands under federal jurisdiction in Ontario.	Federal Involvement Needed
Recommendation 24 The provincial government should continue to be the government responsible for setting legally binding drinking water quality standards.	Underway - SDWA
Recommendation 25 In setting drinking water quality standards for Ontario, the Minister of the Environment should be advised by an Advisory Council on Standards.	Underway - SDWA
Recommendation 26 The Advisory Council on Standards should have the authority to recommend that the provincial government adopt standards for contaminants that are not on the current federal-provincial agenda.	Underway - SDWA
Recommendation 27 The Advisory Council on Standards should consider whether to replace the total coliform test with an E. coli test.	Underway - SDWA
Recommendation 28	Being

<p>No formal maximum contaminant level for protozoa should be established until real-time tests are available. The objective, as with bacterial and viral pathogens, should be zero, and the regulations should so state; but the standard should be a treatment standard, specified in terms of log removal dependent on source water quality.</p>	<p>Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 29</p> <p>The provincial government should seek the advice of the Advisory Council on Standards regarding the desirability of a turbidity limit that is lower than the limit specified in the federal-provincial Guidelines.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Treatment (Chapter 6)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 30</p> <p>All raw water intended for drinking water should be subject to a characterization of each parameter that could indicate a public health risk. The results, regardless of the type of source, should be taken into account in designing and approving any treatment system.</p>	<p>Implement SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 31</p> <p>The Advisory Council on Standards should review Ontario's standards for disinfection by-products to take account of the risks that may be posed by the by-products of all chemical and radiation-based disinfectants.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 32</p> <p>The provincial government should support major wastewater plant operators in collaborative studies aimed at identifying practical methods of reducing or removing heavy metals and priority organics (such as endocrine disruptors) that are not removed by conventional treatment.</p>	<p>Underway- Canada Ontario Agreement</p>
<p>Recommendation 33</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should be adequately resourced to support a water sciences and standards function in relation to drinking water.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Distribution (Chapter 7)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 34</p> <p>The provincial government should encourage the federal government, working with the Standards Council of Canada and with advice from municipalities, the water industry, and other stakeholders, to develop standards for materials, including piping, valves, storage tanks, and</p>	<p>Federal Involvement Needed</p>

<p>bulk chemicals, that come into contact with drinking water.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 35</p> <p>As part of an asset management program, lead service lines should be located and replaced over time with safer materials.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act (SWSSA)</p>
<p>Monitoring (Chapter 8)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 36</p> <p>All municipal water providers in Ontario should have, as a minimum, continuous inline monitoring of turbidity, disinfectant residual, and pressure at the treatment plant, together with alarms that signal immediately when any regulatory parameters are exceeded. The disinfectant residual should be continuously or frequently measured in the distribution system. Where needed, alarms should be accompanied by automatic shut-off mechanisms.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 37</p> <p>Every municipal water provider should be responsible for developing an adequate sampling and continuous measurement plan as part of its operational plan, as recommended in Chapter 11 of this report.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 38</p> <p>Sampling plans should provide for sampling under the conditions most challenging to the system, such as after heavy rainfalls or spring floods.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 39</p> <p>Ontario Regulation 459/00 should be modified to require standard protocols for the collection, transport, custody, labelling, testing, and reporting of drinking water samples, and for testing all scheduled contaminants, that meet or better the protocols in Standard Methods.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 40</p> <p>Where remoteness dictates that samples for bacteriological analysis cannot be delivered to a lab either within regulated times or under guaranteed conditions, the Ministry of the Environment should determine the feasibility of alternative means of providing microbiological testing that meet the requirements of Standard Methods.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>

Laboratories (Chapter 9)	
<p>Recommendation 41</p> <p>The provincial government should phase in the mandatory accreditation of laboratories for all testing parameters, and all drinking water testing should be performed only by accredited facilities.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 42</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should licence and periodically inspect, as required, environmental laboratories that offer drinking water testing; as with water treatment operations, continuing accreditation should be a condition of licence.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 43</p> <p>The results of laboratory accreditation audits should be provided to the Ministry of the Environment and should be publicly available.</p>	Underway - SDWA
The Role of Municipal Government (Chapter 10)	
<p>Recommendation 44</p> <p>Municipalities should review the management and operating structure for their water system to ensure that it is capable of providing safe drinking water on a reliable basis.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 45</p> <p>Given that the safety of drinking water is essential for public health, those who discharge the oversight responsibilities of the municipality should be held to a statutory standard of care.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 46</p> <p>The provincial government should provide guidance and technical advice to support municipal reviews of water systems.</p>	Underway - SDWA and SWSSA
<p>Recommendation 47</p> <p>The provincial government should require municipalities to submit a financial plan for their water system, in accordance with provincial standards, as a condition of licence for their water systems.</p>	Underway - SDWA and SWSSA
<p>Recommendation 48</p> <p>As a general principle, municipalities should plan to raise adequate resources for their water systems from local revenue sources, barring exceptional circumstances.</p>	Underway - SDWA and SWSSA

<p>Recommendation 49</p> <p>Municipal contracts with external operating agencies should be made public.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 50</p> <p>The role of the Ontario Clean Water Agency in offering operational services to municipalities should be maintained. The provincial government should clarify the Ontario Clean Water Agency's status and mandate. In particular, OCWA should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an arm's-length agency with an independent, qualified board responsible for choosing the chief executive; and • available to provide standby emergency capabilities. 	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Quality Management (Chapter 11)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 51</p> <p>The provincial government should require all owners of municipal water systems, as condition of their licence (see Recommendation 71), to have an accredited operating agency, whether internal or external to the municipality.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 52</p> <p>Accreditation should be based on an independent audit and a periodic review by a certified accrediting body.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 53</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should initiate the development of a drinking water quality management standard for Ontario. Municipalities, the water industry, and other relevant stakeholders should be actively recruited to take part in the development of the standard. The water industry is recognized as an essential participant in this initiative.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 54</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment's Drinking Water Branch (see Recommendation 69) should have the responsibility for recognizing the drinking water quality management standard that will apply in Ontario and for ensuring that accreditation is properly implemented.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 55</p> <p>The drinking water quality management standard should come into force by a date to be fixed by the provincial government. All</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>

<p>municipalities should be required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (see Recommendation 67) to have an operating agency for their water system accredited within a specified time.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 56</p> <p>The provincial government should require municipalities to have operational plans for their water systems by a date to be fixed by the provincial government.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 57</p> <p>Operational plans should be approved and reviewed as part of the Ministry of the Environment approvals and inspections programs.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 58</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should work with Emergency Measures Ontario and water industry associations to develop a generic emergency response plan for municipal water providers. A viable and current emergency response plan, and procedures for training and periodic testing of the plan, should be an essential element of mandatory accreditation and operational planning.</p>	Underway - SDWA
Training of Individual Operators (Chapter 12)	
<p>Recommendation 59</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should continue to require the mandatory certification of persons who perform operational work in water treatment and distribution facilities. Education, examination, and experience are essential components of ensuring competence.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 60</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should require water system operators who currently hold certificates obtained through the grandparenting process to become certified through examination within two years, and it should require operators to be recertified periodically.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 61</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should require all applicants for an operator's licence at the entry level to complete a training course that has a specific curriculum to ensure a basic minimum knowledge of principles in relevant subject areas.</p>	Underway - SDWA
<p>Recommendation 62</p>	Underway - SDWA

<p>The Ministry of the Environment should develop a comprehensive training curriculum for operators and should consolidate the current annual training requirement in Ontario Regulation 435/93 and the proposed requirement of ministry-approved training into a single, integrated program approved by the Ministry of the Environment.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 63</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should take measures to ensure that training courses are accessible to operators in small and remote communities and that the courses are tailored to meet the needs of the operators of these water systems.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and Clean Water Legacy Trust Centre</p>
<p>Recommendation 64</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should meet with stakeholders to evaluate existing training courses and to determine the long-term training requirements of the waterworks industry. The ministry should play an active role in ensuring the availability of an array of courses on the subjects required to train operators.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and Clean Water Legacy Trust Centre</p>
<p>Provincial Government (Chapter 13)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 65</p> <p>The provincial government should develop a comprehensive "source to tap" drinking water policy covering all elements of the provision of drinking water, from source protection to standards development, treatment, distribution, and emergency response.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA, Source Protection and NMA</p>
<p>Recommendation 66</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should be the lead ministry responsible for developing and implementing the "source to tap" Drinking Water Policy.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 67</p> <p>The provincial government should enact a Safe Drinking Water Act to deal with matters related to the treatment and distribution of drinking water.</p>	<p>Implement SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 68</p> <p>The provincial government should amend the Environmental Protection Act to implement the recommendations regarding source protection.</p>	<p>Underway - Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 69</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>

<p>The provincial government should create a Drinking Water Branch within the Ministry of the Environment to be responsible for overseeing the drinking water treatment and distribution system.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 70</p> <p>The provincial government should create a Watershed Management Branch within the Ministry of the Environment to be responsible for oversight of watershed-based source protection plans and, if implemented, watershed management plans.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 71</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should require the owners of municipal water systems to obtain an owner's licence for the operation of their waterworks. In order to obtain a licence, an owner should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Certificate of Approval for the facility; • a Permit to Take Water; • approved operational plans; • an approved financial plan; and • an accredited operating agency. 	<p>Underway - SDWA and SWSSA</p>
<p>Recommendation 72</p> <p>The provincial government should create an office of Chief Inspector - Drinking Water Systems.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 73</p> <p>Inspectors should be required to have the same or higher qualifications as the operators of the systems they inspect and should receive special training in inspections.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 74</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should increase its commitment to the use of mandatory abatement.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and NMA</p>
<p>Recommendation 75</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should increase its commitment to strict enforcement of all regulations and provisions related to the safety of drinking water.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Recommendation 76</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should initiate a process whereby the</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>

<p>public can require the Investigations and Enforcement Branch to investigate alleged violations of drinking water provisions.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 77</p> <p>A steering group should be established within each public health unit area in the province, comprised of representatives of affected local hospitals, municipalities, local Ministry of the Environment offices and local boards of health, for the purpose of developing in a coordinated fashion emergency response plans for the control of, or the response to, infectious diseases and public health hazard outbreaks.</p>	<p>Being addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 78</p> <p>The provincial government should ensure that programs relating to the safety of drinking water are adequately funded.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 79</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should create an Integrated Divisional System which provides central electronic access to information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant to source protection; • relevant to each drinking water system in Ontario (including a description of the system, trend analyses, water quality, and systems data); • required by the Drinking Water Branch (including for approvals and inspections); and • required by local Boards of Health. 	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 80</p> <p>The Drinking Water Branch should prepare an annual "State of Ontario's Drinking Water Report," which should be tabled in the Legislature.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>Small Systems (Chapter 14)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 81</p> <p>Ontario Regulation 459/00 should apply to any system that provides drinking water to more than a prescribed number of private residences.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 82</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment should establish a procedure under which owners of communal water systems may apply for a variance from provincial regulations only if a risk analysis and management plan demonstrate that safe drinking water can be provided by means</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>

<p>other than those laid down in regulations.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 83</p> <p>The provincial government should not approve water systems that would not be economically viable under the regulatory regime existing at the time of the application.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA and SWSSA</p>
<p>Recommendation 84</p> <p>Approved systems that are not economically viable under the improved regulatory scheme should be required to explore all managerial, operational, and technological options to find the most economical way of providing safe drinking water. If the system is still too expensive, the provincial government should make assistance available to lower the cost per household to a predetermined level.</p>	<p>Underway - SWSSA</p>
<p>Recommendation 85</p> <p>The application of Ontario Regulation 505/01 should be broadened to include all owners of water systems that serve the public for a commercial or institutional purpose and that do not come within the requirements of Ontario Regulation 459/00.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 86</p> <p>With regard to private drinking water systems that are not covered by either Ontario Regulation 459/00 or Ontario Regulation 505/01, the provincial government should provide the public with information about how to supply water safely and should ensure that this information is well distributed. It should also maintain the system of licensing well drillers and ensure the easy availability of microbiological testing, including testing for E. coli.</p>	<p>Underway v multi-minist (MOHLTC, MOE, OMAF working gro</p>
<p>Recommendation 87</p> <p>The provincial government should review the current practices for the delivery of drinking water in bulk and the need for a regulatory framework in this area.</p>	<p>Underway - SDWA</p>
<p>First Nations (Chapter 15)</p>	
<p>Recommendation 88</p> <p>Ontario First Nations should be invited to join in the watershed planning process outlined in Chapter 4 of this report.</p>	<p>Underway - Source Protection</p>
<p>Recommendation 89</p> <p>I encourage First Nations and the federal government to formally</p>	<p>Federal Involvement Needed</p>

<p>adopt drinking water standards, applicable to reserves, that are as stringent as, or more stringent than, the standards adopted by the provincial government.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 90</p> <p>I encourage First Nations and the federal government to consider moving to a quality management standard over time, even if the consequence is that several communities, perhaps both reserve and non-reserve, might collaborate on a regional basis, or that First Nation communities might choose to contract with others to manage their water supply systems.</p>	<p>Federal Involvement Needed</p>
<p>Recommendation 91</p> <p>The provincial government should require the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) to offer its services to First Nations band councils for operating on-reserve water systems on a normal commercial basis.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 92</p> <p>The provincial government should actively offer, on a cost-recovery basis, its training facilities and curriculum to First Nations water system operators.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>
<p>Recommendation 93</p> <p>As a matter of principle, the provincial government should make technical assistance, drinking water testing, inspection, and enforcement available to First Nations communities on a cost-recovery basis, if requested.</p>	<p>Being Addressed</p>

2 recommendations are implemented to date as a result of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

68 recommendations are underway to date as a result of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); the Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act (SWSSA); Nutrient Management Act (NMA); Watershed-based source protection framework, and the Clean Water Legacy Trust and Clean Water Centre of Excellence.

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