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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LOCAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION

Sudbury Water Quality Must Be Protected

SUDBURY — The McGuinty government is committed to protecting the province's drinking water supply, Environment Minister Laurel Broten said today while meeting with officials from the Nickel District Conservation Authority (NDCA).

"The McGuinty government believes that local communities and organizations are best positioned to protect and manage their drinking water sources," said Broten, "We are supporting the work of conservation authorities because they are expert custodians of our watersheds."

In November 2005, the government committed \$67.5 million to local communities to help them be better prepared to protect their drinking water sources. As part of that five-year commitment, NDCA received \$274,578 to help ensure it has the staff and resources to work with communities to develop source protection plans.

"The Clean Water Act will be good news for Sudbury and the Nickel District region," said Ron Bradley, Chairman of NDCA. "This funding is allowing us to do studies that will be the basis for a comprehensive system of water protection in our region."

"Our government is committed to strengthening northern communities on a number of fronts, including through significant investments for water systems upgrades through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC)," said Northern Development and Mines Minister and NOHFC Chair, Rick Bartolucci. "If passed, the Clean Water Act will be another tool; a significant tool that will strengthen water systems and make for more vibrant and prosperous northern communities."

The Clean Water Act was introduced in the Legislature in December, 2005. If passed, it would ensure that communities are able to identify potential risks to their supply of drinking water, and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks. Municipalities, conservation authorities, landowners, farmers, industry community groups and the public would all work together to meet common goals.

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