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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LOCAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION

North Bay, Mattawa Water Quality Must Be Protected

NORTH BAY — 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 North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA).

“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, who can work with municipalities and other partners.”

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, NBMCA received \$244,206 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 North Bay and Mattawa,” said Marc Charron, Chair of NBMCA. “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 ensuring that we have clean, safe drinking water in our homes and businesses now and in the future,” said Monique Smith, MPP for Nipissing. “We are taking action and providing funding to keep the people of North Bay-Mattawa healthy and allow our communities to grow and prosper.”

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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