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## **ONTARIO'S DRINKING WATER IS SAFE** *McGuinty Government On The Side Of Ontario Families*

TORONTO — Ontarians can be confident of the quality of their drinking water, Environment Minister Laurel Broten said today after receiving the first annual report by the province's Chief Drinking Water Inspector.

The report, which details the quality of water provided by drinking water systems and the inspection program for municipal residential drinking water systems, confirms that overall the province's drinking water is safe and of very high quality.

"We're on the side of Ontario families. That's why we have strong drinking water protection laws and a rigorous inspection program. Today's report shows these programs are working," said Broten. "Inspections help ensure that drinking water systems provide safe water. They also provide information that can help municipalities and other owners decide what infrastructure investments to make so they continue to provide safe drinking water."

Water quality results show that systems are providing high quality drinking water. For municipal residential drinking water systems, 99.74 per cent of all tests performed in 2004-2005 met Ontario's drinking water standards. The report builds on information provided in the May 2005 Progress Report.

"I am committed to continuously improving drinking water system operations to ensure the excellence of our drinking water," said Jim Smith, Ontario's Chief Drinking Water Inspector. "We work with owners and operators to both quickly fix the problems we do find and to prevent future problems."

Working to ensure safe drinking water is just one way the McGuinty government is protecting the health of Ontario families. Other initiatives include:

- Hiring 33 new full-time water inspectors, investigators and other compliance staff
- Introduction of the Clean Water Act
- Investments in rebuilding Ontario's infrastructure, including \$117 million through the second round of COMRIF.

"Everyone has a right to clean water. I am very pleased to see that municipalities are providing safe drinking water," said Broten. "We want to keep it that way and we will continue to work with them on our shared goal of safeguarding Ontario's drinking water."

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