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## ONTARIO'S CHIEF DRINKING WATER INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Ontario's Chief Drinking Water Inspector, Jim Smith, has presented his first annual report to Environment Minister Laurel Broten. The report builds on information provided in the May 2005 Progress Report. It provides information on the quality of water provided by drinking water systems in Ontario and the inspection program for municipal residential drinking water systems and testing laboratories over the April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005 period.

Key results for 2004-05 include:

- 99.74 per cent of water quality tests submitted by municipal residential drinking water systems met Ontario drinking water standards. Over 850,000 microbiological and chemical tests were conducted.
- 99.06 percent of water quality tests submitted by systems serving designated facilities which include schools, health care facilities and children's camps met Ontario drinking water standards. More than 160,000 microbiological and chemical tests were conducted.
- 99.41 percent of water quality tests submitted by non-municipal year round residential systems met Ontario drinking water standards. These systems serve private subdivisions, condominium or townhouse complexes, apartment buildings, mobile home parks, as well as year round cottage developments and trailer parks. More than 62,000 microbiological and chemical tests were conducted.
- 100 per cent of all licensed drinking water testing laboratories in Ontario were subject to at least one planned and one unannounced inspection.

### Inspections of Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems

Ministry officials inspected 729 municipal residential drinking water systems. All systems were assessed against more than 130 regulatory requirements. Seventy-seven of the municipal residential drinking water systems received orders.

Issuing an order does not necessarily mean that drinking water is unsafe. Orders are also issued to correct situations where there is no direct threat to human health – such as administrative procedures.

The report also introduces a proposed method of assessing municipal residential drinking water system inspection results to provide a comparative measure for future performance. The Chief Drinking Water Inspector will consult with municipalities and other stakeholders on the proposed methodology for measuring inspection results.

More than 82 per cent of Ontarians are served by municipal residential drinking water systems.

The Chief Drinking Water Inspector's report is available online at:  
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/techdocs/#drinkingwater>.

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