

For Immediate Release  
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## **ONTARIO FUNDS INNOVATIVE DRINKING WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY** *Technology Could Improve Drinking Water Treatment By Removing Chemicals Found in Pharmaceuticals*

TORONTO — Ontario is sponsoring cutting-edge research into innovative drinking water treatment technology, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today.

“We need to find modern solutions to emerging drinking water quality issues,” Broten said. “I am very excited about this research. It will make Ontario a world leader in drinking water treatment technology.”

Most drinking water in North America contains trace amounts of chemicals from pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Published studies indicate possible effects of these chemicals at trace levels on human health. The government is contributing \$100,000 to a project that will study two membranes that have the ability to screen out very small compounds at a rapid rate compared to membranes typically used in drinking water treatment now.

Membranes are sheetlike structures installed in treatment plants that allow water to flow through but stop undesirable substances. This is the first time that such membranes have been used to remove these chemicals from drinking water. The Walkerton Clean Water Centre, the University of Ottawa and the University of Singapore are collaborating on the project.

Investigating new treatment technology is just one way the McGuinty government is working to better safeguard drinking water. Other initiatives include:

- Hiring 33 new full-time water inspectors, investigators and compliance staff
- Improving how drinking water systems operators across the province are trained
- Introducing the Clean Water Act to help prevent sources of drinking water from getting contaminated in the first place.

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