

For Immediate Release
March 15, 2006

ATIKOKAN TOWNSHIP FINED \$6,000 FOR VIOLATION OF THE ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES ACT

FORT FRANCES — The Township of Atikokan has been fined \$6,000, plus a victim fine surcharge after pleading guilty to violating the Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA).

Drinking water is supplied to Atikokan residents by a large municipal, residential drinking water system which consists of a conventional treatment plant located at 101 Little Falls Road and a distribution system. The municipality is responsible for ensuring the required maintenance and operation of the distribution system.

The Ministry of Environment conducted a routine inspection of the drinking water system on October 27, 2003, and discovered that operators did not have the required licenses.

The Court heard that subsequent ministry inspections revealed that the Township of Atikokan continued to be out of compliance with requirements for licensed operators. As a result, the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch laid charges.

The Township of Atikokan pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that responsibility for the overall operation of the facility was placed with an operator, licensed specifically for that type of facility, contrary to Section 13(1) of O. Reg. 435/93 under the OWRA and was fined \$6,000 plus a victim fine surcharge.

Justice of the Peace Pat Clysdale-Cornell heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Fort Frances, Ontario, on February 24, 2006.

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