

**For Immediate Release
June 23, 2006**

MONTESSORI SCHOOL AND CO-OWNER FINED \$7,000

ALEXANDRIA — Freehouse Montessori School co-owner has been fined \$7,000, after pleading guilty to multiple counts under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Freehouse Montessori School at 5231 County Road 19 in Williamstown, Ontario, is licensed as a day nursery with a drinking-water system regulated by Ontario Regulation 170/03 and the SDWA. Kimberley McRae-Craig co-owns the school and has principal oversight of the child care centre.

In February 2004, an inspector with the Ministry of Community and Social Services informed the co-owners of the requirements of O. Reg. 170/03. An inspection by an MOE drinking-water inspector on March 23, 2005 revealed that the school had not complied with O. Reg. 170/03. Water treatment equipment was not installed; distribution samples were not being taken and tested as required; and total coliforms had been detected in a number of the samples but these results had not been reported to MOE or to the local Medical Officer of Health.

Further investigation determined that the required treatment equipment had not been installed until April 2005, almost two years after the deadline.

Charges were laid following an investigation by MOE's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

Kimberley McRae-Craig pleaded guilty to: failing to ensure that water treatment equipment was provided contrary to Schedule 2 of O. Reg. 170/03 and was fined \$5,000; failing to ensure the required number of distribution water samples were taken weekly and submitted for microbiological parameters contrary to Schedule 12 of O. Reg. 170/03 and was fined \$1,000; and failing to report a prescribed adverse result of a drinking water test contrary to Section 18(1) of the SDWA and was fined \$1,000, for total fines of \$7,000, plus a victim fine surcharge.

Justice of the Peace Basile Marchand heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Alexandria, Ontario, on April 3, 2006.

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