

**Ministry of  
the Environment**

Office of the Minister

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JAN 16 2013

Mr. Bob Hartley  
Chair, Lakehead Source Protection Committee  
R.R. #13, 460 Lakeshore Drive  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E4

Mr. Bill Bartley  
Chair, Lakehead Source Protection Authority  
Box 10427, 130 Conservation Road  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8

Dear Mr. Hartley and Mr. Bartley:

I appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Lakehead Source Protection Committee and Authority and all stakeholders to assess and develop a plan to protect drinking water sources in your community. Thank you for all your hard work, leadership and commitment.

It is a pleasure to inform you that the review of the Lakehead Source Protection Plan, developed under the Clean Water Act, 2006, has been completed. Pursuant to section 29 of the Clean Water Act, I approve the Lakehead Source Protection Plan.

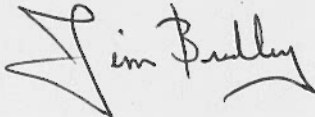
Your community is to be commended on the achievement of the first source protection plan approved in Ontario. This is an example of the local, inclusive, community-based approach to protecting source water envisioned by the Clean Water Act. The province has been pleased to support the source assessment and development of the plan with an investment of \$4.2 million dollars since 2004. In addition, local landowners have received provincial funding of approximately \$100,000 to take action to protect drinking water.

Following today's approval of the plan, in order to allow time for preparation, the Lakehead plan will take effect on October 1, 2013. Please ensure that this is included in the plan when it is posted on the Internet. As specified in the Clean Water Act, a notice of the approval of the Plan will be posted on the Environmental Registry as soon as possible. Under section 36 of the Clean Water Act, when a source protection plan is approved, the future review of the plan also needs to be specified. The Lakehead Source Protection Plan developed by the Committee contains a small number of straightforward policies, and so at this time I am not specifying a particular time for review. Once additional experience has been gained with the Plan, and after consulting with you, a decision can be made on the timing and content on the review of the Plan.

With your commitment, significant progress has been made in source protection and the Province looks forward to continuing to work with you and all stakeholders to protect drinking water.

Once again, thank you for your work to protect Ontario's source waters, and please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Bradley". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a flourish at the end.

Jim Bradley  
Minister

cc: Paul Nieweglowski, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment  
Ling Mark, Director, Ministry of the Environment  
Mervi Henttonen, General Manager, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority