

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The introduction of the Clean Water Act is an important step toward ensuring safe drinking water for all Ontarians and the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is encouraged by the government's support of source water protection planning.

"While we haven't yet had an opportunity to examine the legislation in detail, we are pleased that the government has maintained its commitment to introduce legislation this session," said Bill Bartley, Chairman of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

"Water is critical to all aspects of our lives. Significant attention and resources are essential to guarantee enough clean water for Ontarians now and in the future," said Mr. Bartley. "Our water supply is not inexhaustible. We have an obligation to care for what we have."

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is a community-based environmental agency, responsible for the wise management of renewable natural resources in our watershed. Conservation Authorities undertake a broad range of programs, including: flood control; floodplain management; wetland protection; erosion control; reforestation; conservation lands; and conservation education. Conservation Authorities are this province's leading watershed managers. Source Protection legislation will provide an important framework on how best to protect sources of drinking water such as rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater.

Conservation Authorities currently deliver a variety of watershed management programs to improve water quality, reduce flood and erosion damages, provide an adequate water supply, protect natural areas and biodiversity, and provide environmental education to watershed residents. Because they are structured on a watershed basis, Conservation Authorities are able to co-ordinate and streamline local delivery of water management and source protection activities.

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