

Overview of Source Protection Planning

Lakehead Source Protection Area



Source Protection – Walkerton Inquiry

- Since the Walkerton water tragedy, Source Water Protection has become an important issue in Ontario.
- It is a complex subject, with the potential to significantly change the way we think about water and the way we address water issues.
- Source Protection is the need to protect our water sources, in order to ensure, there is enough safe, clean water for all our needs, now and in the future.

What is *Source Water*?

Source Water comes from one of two sources: *surface water* or *groundwater*.

Source Water is untreated water from streams, lakes, rivers or underground aquifers that people use for drinking water supplied by private wells and public drinking water systems.



Drinking Water Source Protection

- **Conservation Authorities have been contracted by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to facilitate and coordinate Source Protection Planning.**
- **The planning process for Municipal drinking water systems is fully funded (100%) by the Provincial Government.**
- **LRCA started working on “source water protection” in mid-2005 working and will have funding for “source protection” through 2012 to complete a local Source Protection Plan.**

The “Clean Water Act, 2006” – Bill 43

July 3, 2007 - The “Clean Water Act, 2006” was proclaimed (enacted) and passed into law.

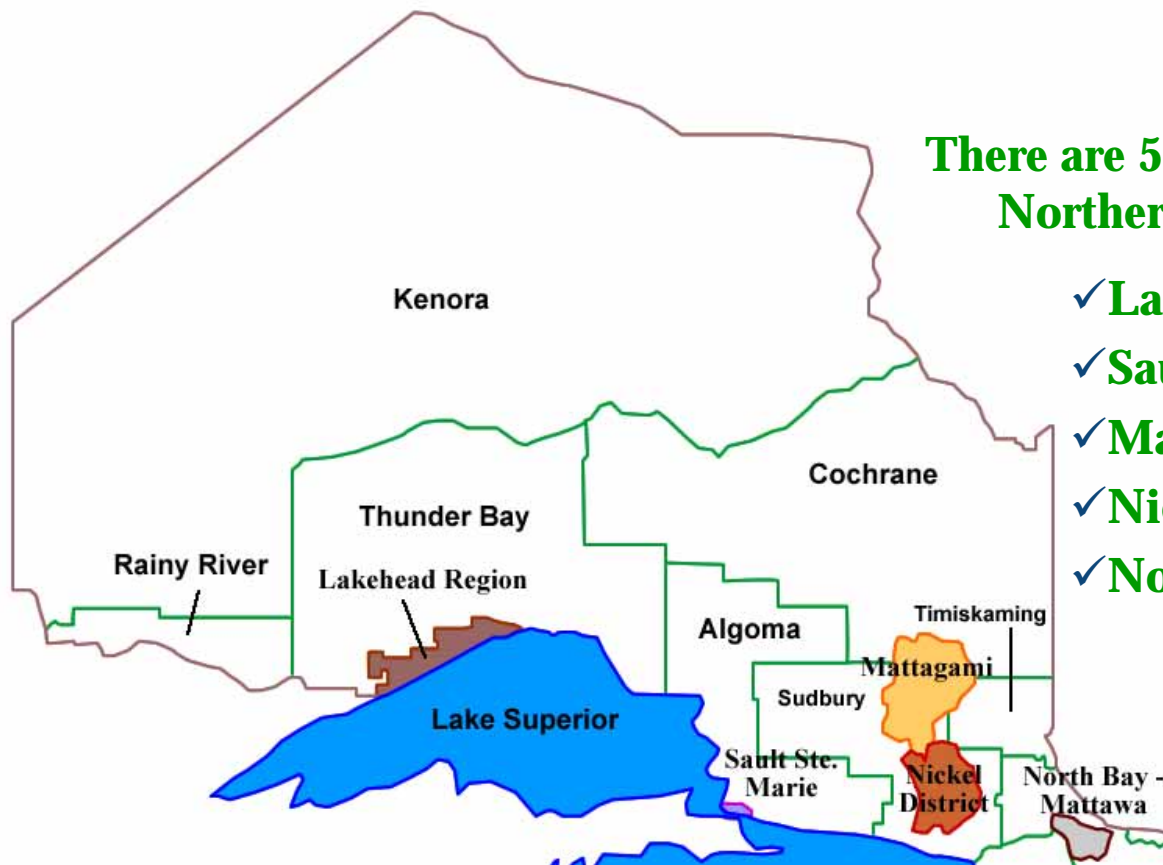
- **Only applies to Municipal water supply systems. In our Area: Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge - Rosslyn Village groundwater aquifer; City of Thunder Bay - Bare Point, Lake Superior surface water intake.**
- **Does not include private wells or private drinking water systems.**
- **This “Act” gives Municipalities the power to govern activities on their land in ordinance to measures put in the Source Protection Plan.**

Conservation Authorities

The Lakehead
Source
Protection Area
is one of five
Source
Protection Areas
in Northern
Ontario, and the
largest by area.

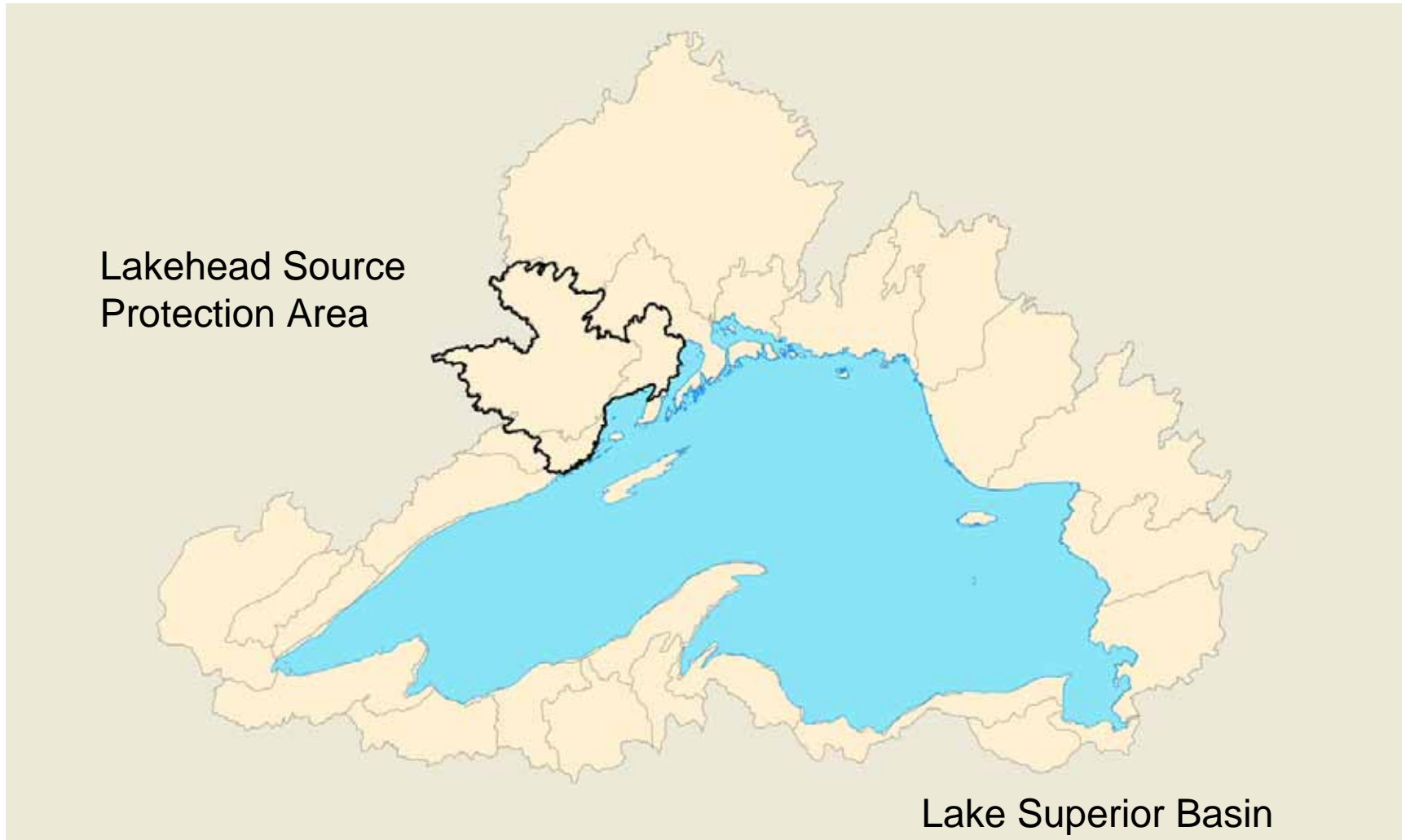


Conservation Authorities in Northern Ontario



There are 5 Conservation Authorities in Northern Ontario

- ✓ **Lakehead Region**
- ✓ **Sault Ste. Marie**
- ✓ **Mattagami**
- ✓ **Nickel District**
- ✓ **North Bay-Mattawa**



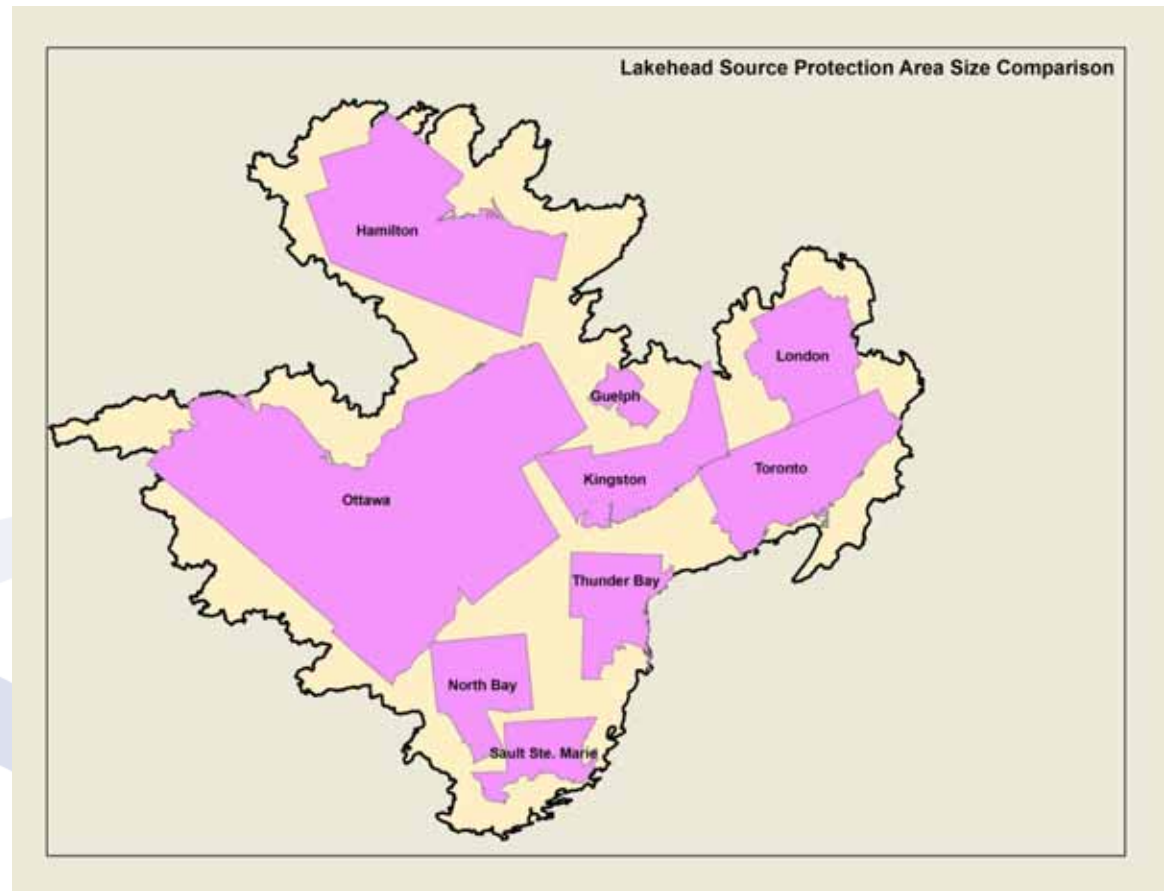
Lakehead Source Protection Area

- Approx 11,526 km²
- 22 Watersheds
- 5 - Largest Watersheds are:
 - Kaministiquia River
 - Neebing River
 - McIntyre River
 - Current River
 - Wolf River



Size Comparison

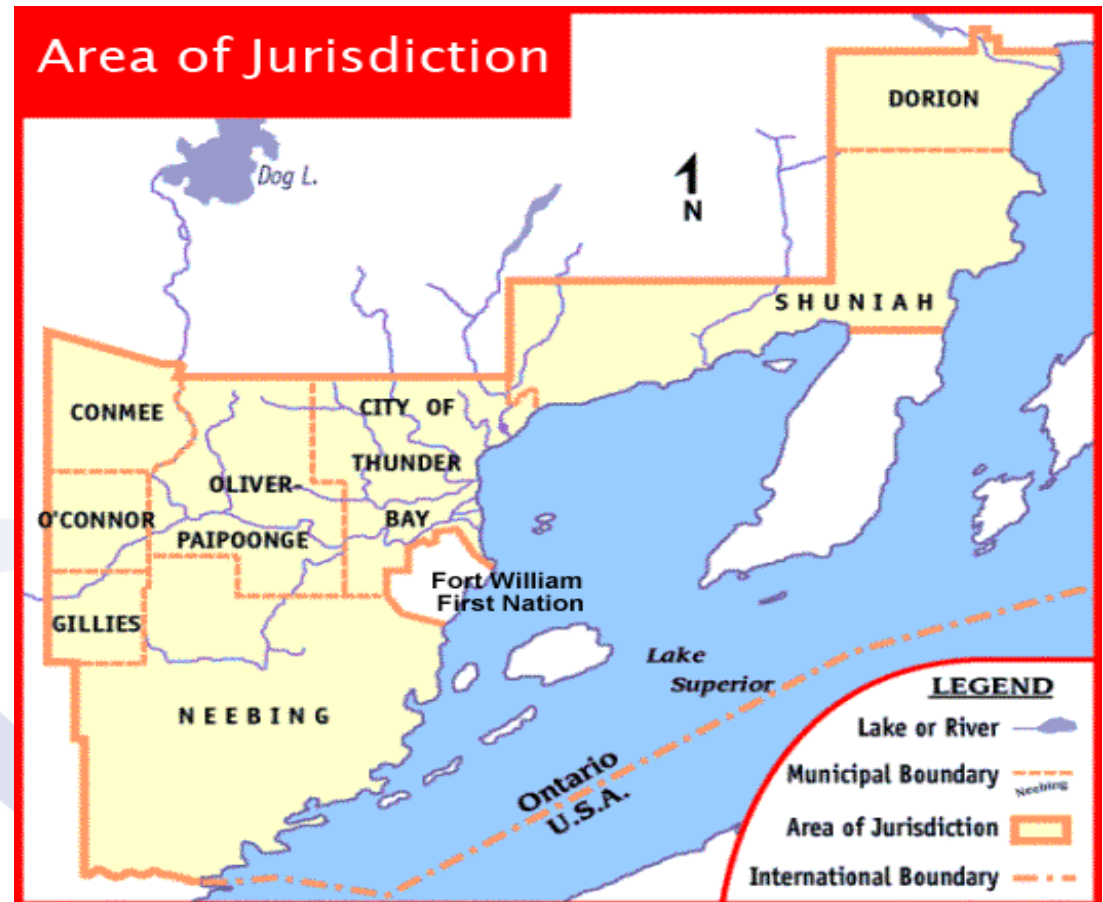
- Covers 200 km of Lake Superior shoreline.
- 75% of land cover is unorganized townships
- Sparsely populated less than 1 person per hectare.
- Thunder Bay's population of 110,000 represents 87% of total SPA.
- 95% of population live within boundaries of the LRCA



Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

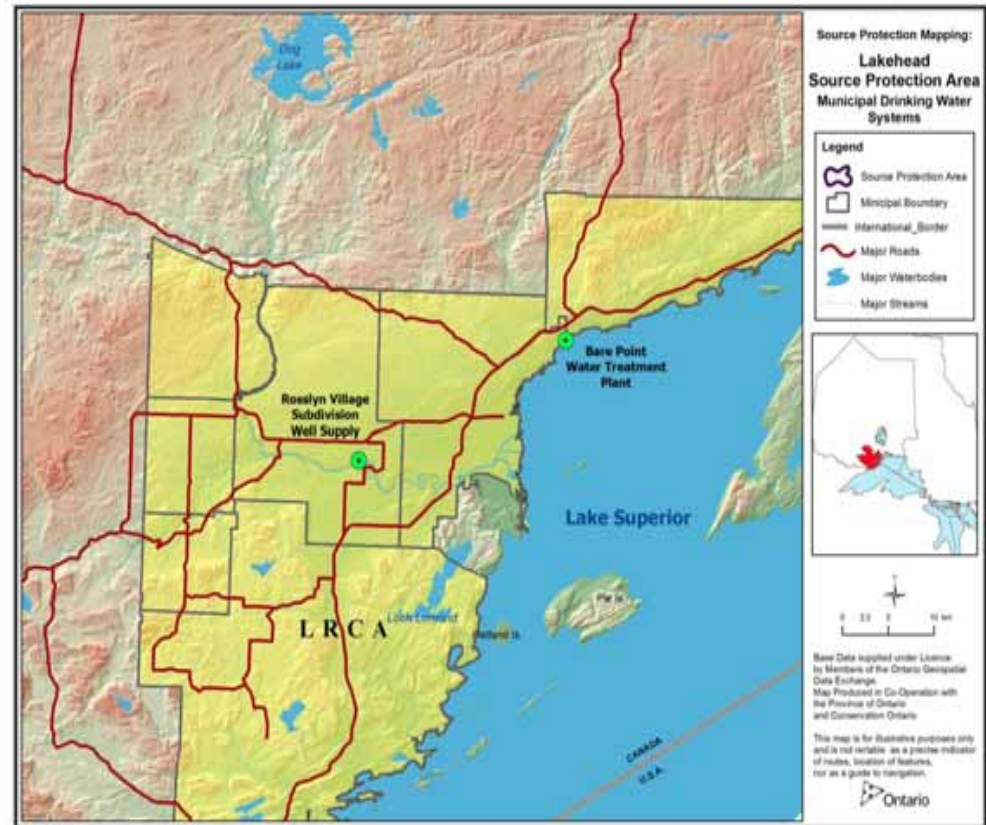
Eight Municipalities

- City of Thunder Bay
- Oliver Paipoonge
- Shuniah
- Dorion
- Conmee
- Neebing
- Gillies
- O'Connor
- Conmee



Scope of Program

- Source Protection Committee facilitates the Source Protection Planning process.
- Open and transparent process.
- Public consultation is key.
- 4 DWSP Staff.
- 7 staff - Regular CA program.



Lakehead Source Protection Committee

Nine Members

➤ 3 - Municipal

- ✓ 2 – City of Thunder Bay
- ✓ 1 – Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge

➤ 3 - Industry & Economic

- ✓ 1 – Forest Industry
- ✓ 1 – Transportation
- ✓ 1 – Agriculture

➤ 3 - Public

- ✓ 1 – Education
- ✓ 1 – Tourism
- ✓ 1 – Public



Source Protection Planning Process

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference is the work plan and budget developed by the Source Protection Committee. It was submitted to the Minister of Environment on October 19, 2008

Assessment Report

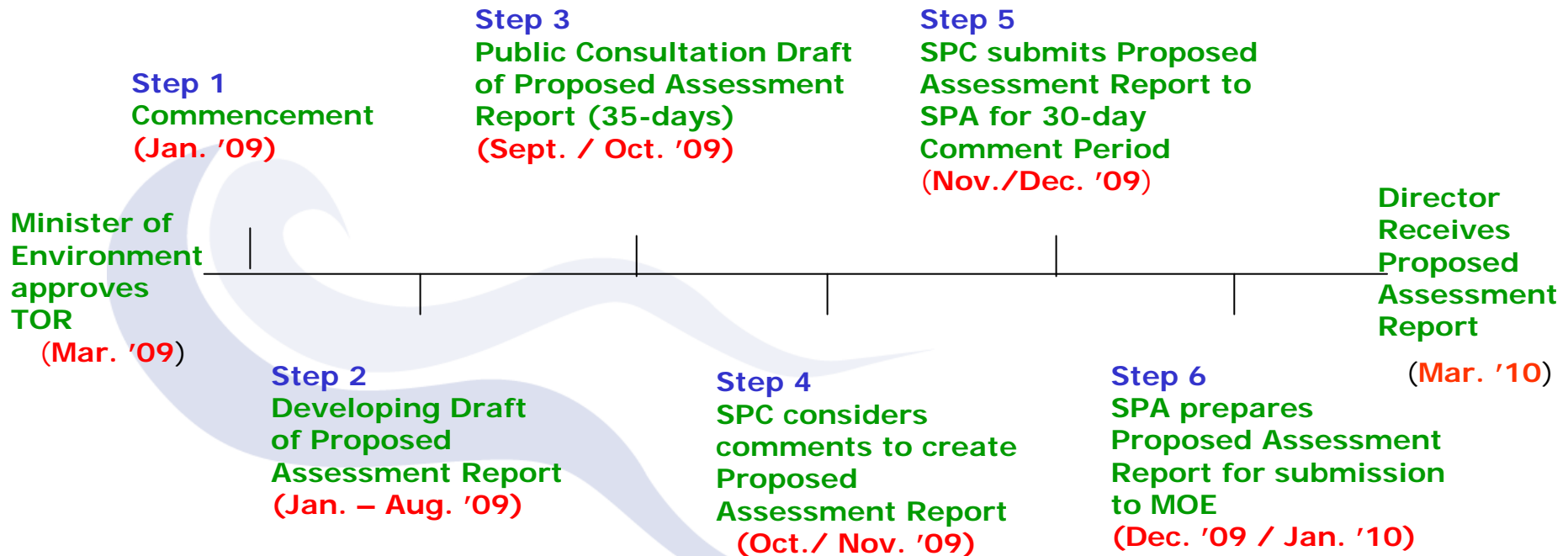
The Assessment Report is a science based report developed locally to identify the vulnerable areas. Threats and risks to the vulnerable areas will be identified and assessed to determine if they pose a significant threat to the sources of Municipal drinking water.

Source Protection Plan

The Source Protection Plan is the document that outlines policies intended to ensure that all significant Municipal drinking water systems and potential threats are managed in such a way that they will never become significant drinking water threats.

Assessment Report – Timeline Summary

Note: This is a timeline estimate based on the Minister approving the Terms of Reference in March 2009.



Freedom of Information - MFIPPA

- Protect the privacy of an individual's personal information existing in government records.
- Gives individuals the right to access Municipal government information.
- Information includes most general records, and information records containing their own personal information.
- The right to request correction of their personal information.
- Information on sign in sheets is only collected for the purposes of this Open House.
- Only Staff required to handle information and documents pertaining to Source Protection will have access to files.

Public Consultation on the Assessment Report

Two Public Comment Periods

- 35-day comment period including a public meeting for the Draft Proposed Assessment Report.
 - Comments to Source Protection Committee.
(September-October 2009)
- 30-day comment period for the Proposed Assessment Report.
 - Comments to the Source Protection Authority.
(October – November 2009)

Public Consultation Process

The Source Protection Committee will advise the public of the opportunity to:

- View on the Internet – www.sourceprotection.net.
- Inspect at public viewing stations (i.e. CA office, Municipal offices, Public Library, etc.).
- Publish notice in one or more newspapers.
- Public meetings or open houses (at least one) required for 35-day comment period only.
- Submit written comments for a 35-day comment period and then a 30-day comment period.

Status of Source Protection Program

- **Proposed Terms of Reference**
 - Submitted Oct 19, 2009 (Under Review)
- **Watershed Characterization Report**
 - Completed March 2008
- **Water Budget & Tier 1 Quantity Stress Assessment**
 - Completed November 2008
- **Roslyn Village WHPA Study**
 - Peer Review of Final Draft January 2009
Delineation of Time of Travel Zones & Vulnerability Analysis
- **Bare Point IPZ Study**
 - Phase 1 – February 2009
Delineation of IPZ-1 & Vulnerability Analysis
 - Phase 2 – February 2009
Delineation of IPZ-2 & Vulnerability Analysis



Key Challenges

- Engaging the population of the Lakehead Source Protection Area who have the impression that a clean water supply is unlimited.
- Lack of data to support technical studies and scientific reports
- Cost implications for Municipalities



Key Successes

- **Committee Members**
 - Technical and cohesive group
 - Regular monthly meetings
- **Transparency Process**
 - Door-to-Door Stakeholder Invitations
 - Public viewing stations
- **Peer Reviewers**
 - Qualified local expertise





Questions?