



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

May 23, 2001

Nan Shuttleworth
The Salamander Foundation
50 Park Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2N5

Dear Nan,

An Act to Conserve Ontario Waters

Enclosed is the full package that we have prepared for our 10:00 am press conference tomorrow at the Queen's Park Press Gallery. We are so sorry that you are unable to be there. Hopefully, you will be hearing about our Act in the media tomorrow evening. We had to choose this week because the Walkerton Inquiry took a break from their intense schedule and our lawyers would be back in town. We also wanted to avoid conflicting with the anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy.

In planning our strategy for the release of *An Act to Conserve Ontario Waters*, we decided to take your good suggestion to write to all three parties today urging them to support the passage of the Act. We have already had request from the Liberals and the NDP to meet with us to pursue this objective. We have met with and shared drafts of this act with the Director of the Lands and Natural Heritage Division of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources during its development and are hopeful this will lead to the government's support. A range of water experts reviewed and commented on early drafts of this Act. These included representatives of municipal governments, conservation authorities, engineers, policy analysts, First Nations, a biologist, an economist, and environmentalists.

We have also formally submitted a copy of this act to Phase 2 of the Walkerton Inquiry that has commissioned a range of expert papers on subjects germane to recommendations that the Inquiry will be framing to reform water protection in Ontario. Our experience representing the Concerned Walkerton Citizens in the Inquiry has demonstrated the immutable link between water quantity and quality issues. We feel that this Act will be a real contribution to the Inquiry.

Consequently, in planning the press conference, we decided to link the release of *An Act to Conserve Ontario Waters* with another submission that we have made to the Walkerton Inquiry on the need for a Safe Drinking Water Act. This allows us to present a

comprehensive legal framework to reform all aspects of water safety in Ontario and to maximise press attention.

I have included a copy of the executive summary of that paper for you as well. Both papers will be available electronically on CELA's web site www.cela.ca as well as on the site of the Walkerton Inquiry.

We are so grateful to you for the support you have given us to do this important piece of work. We have about \$5,000. remaining in the project budget to continue our efforts to have this Act passed. We intend to disseminate copies widely to generate support.

Once the final arguments are put to bed in the Walkerton Inquiry at the end of the summer, we will be exploring ways to make sure that the Inquiry outcome results in real reforms. We would like to include you in those discussions.

Yours truly,
Canadian Environmental Law Association

Sarah Miller
Co-ordinator