



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

ACT ON YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE SALE OF ONTARIO'S WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

WRITE TO:

Rob Sampson MPP
Chairman
Cabinet Committee on Privatization
7th floor
Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Circle
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y7
FAX (416) 325-1584

Tell him of your concerns that the Cabinet Committee on Privatization is considering selling the Ontario Clean Water Agency to a private partner. Ask that:

- . there be public hearings on these sales
- . the Province pass laws implementing mandatory water conservation for all sectors of users; industrial, commercial, municipal, household and agricultural. That the objective be to bring Ontario's per capita consumption to the volumes used by european countries. That saving from conservation programmes be measured before privatization is considered.
- . the public retain control over Ontario's most precious resource water essential to our health and well being.

Express your concerns that:

- . Private companies will be accountable first to their shareholders and that profits are likely to be their first priority not water efficiency and conservation.
- . That without controls, under privatization water costs could rise and become unaffordable for the poor while systems and service could deteriorate as they have in Britain.
- . That recent deregulation has weakened and delayed important water discharge laws. Without a strong regulatory framework to guide their activities, private companies are likely to increase pollution of our waterways as they have in Britain.
- . Maintenance costing billions of dollars is needed now to repair these systems which are leaking aging and polluting, but these needs are likely to be ignored in the pursuit of profits.
- . That droughts, over-development, and climate change could lead to diminished supplies and water crises and conflicts between water users in the Province.
- . That unionized jobs and worker health and safety and consequentially plant performance could be placed at risk.
- . That water allocation will be dictated by development, engineering and profits and not by environmental considerations of the carrying capacity of our watersheds. Groundwater resources and aquifers could be depleted since watershed

protection is not included in Ontario's Planning Act.

. That Ontario's waters will not be protected by private interests from diversion to areas in the U.S. and Mexico which are or will shortly be suffering severe water shortages. Trade Agreements will make waters diverted into a commodity which once diverted will have to be perpetually supplied.

. That the fragmentation of the management of and jurisdiction over our water and wastewater systems has caused the problems which have bankrupted Ontario's water budget. Adding many new private users to the mix without strong regulation in place will compound our water woes.

Also write to:

The Honourable Norm Sterling
Minister of the Environment and Energy
12th Floor
135 St. Clair Avenue W.
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5
Fax (416) 323-4682

About your concerns about the awarding of the contract for provision of future water supplies for York Region to the consortium of Consumer's Gas and North West Water of Britain.

Express your concerns about:

. The need for a full Environmental Assessment of this precedent setting project rather than the Class EA which the proponents are favouring. A full EA would allow the issues of need and alternatives to be evaluated. A full EA would allow more scrutiny of a wider range of issues and more opportunities for public participation in the process. It would also allow the concerned public to request a hearing if they are not satisfied by the outcome of EA studies and recommendations.

. The region taking this route before they have implemented water conservation measures.

. The impacts on the environment of the pipeline options for to both the source of withdrawal from Georgian Bay or Lake Simcoe and for the watersheds of the Oak Ridges Moraine receiving the resultant wastewaters from the new developments serviced by these pipelines.

Tell both of these Ministers the tales of you have heard tonight of the damage that has resulted from privatization to British consumers, to the environment, to water supplies and water quality only seven years after Maggie Thatcher privatized U.K. water systems in 1989.