

MEMO

TO: Theresa, Paul, Sarah
FROM: Kathy ✓
DATE: August 28, 2000
RE: Review of Two Applications for Standing in Walkerton Inquiry

Herewith, my paraphrased notes of the applications for standing by the Walkerton Community Foundation and the Walkerton and District Chamber of Commerce.

1. Walkerton Community Foundation

Note: overall submission is 5 pages. Headings used are directly from their application; and notes are either direct quotes or paraphrasing.

Issues of Interest

Part I

- the cause of the water crisis, with respect to the effect, if any, of government policies, procedures, or practices, or lack thereof
- in particular, effect, if any, of existing applicable emergency response plan, if any, and the adequacy, sufficiency and timeliness of implementation of any such plan
- concern arises due to: perception of delay in response and thereby prevention of all involved and affected to take appropriate responsive action

Part II

- policy issue of adequate, appropriate and timely communication of emergency response notification to the public, in response to emergency situations
- includes issues of redundancy systems in critical areas, plus independent, and impartial testing and reporting
- costs and economic losses by Walkerton area households, businesses and other institutions, the ultimate incidence of those losses and their likely course over time.
- also concerned about many non-financial, non-quantifiable costs borne by residents
- aware, via members of large and growing need for various supports not presently available, e.g., appropriate, adequate and timely counselling for mental health, grief, school reintegration and financial matters.
- group is comprised of a broad representation of the general population, businesses and professionals of Walkerton and therefore expect to call evidence from individual Foundation members, and constituent member organizations, as to the anticipated potential future impacts of the individual costs and losses suffered.
- will also seek evidence from member service clubs and non-profit organizations, relative to their involvement assisting the people, businesses and others of Walkerton, in meeting impact of the costs and losses suffered in our community
- Foundation has had preliminary discussion with and anticipates seeking additional evidence from various other service clubs and non-profit organizations within our community who are not presently members of the Foundation relative to their involvement in assisting the people, businesses and others in Walkerton, in meeting the impacts of the costs and losses suffered in our community. In particular, it is our intention to request the Kinsmen and Kinettes to provide evidence with respect to

their considerable experience in dealing directly with the families most dramatically affected by the E. coli infection.

Walkerton Community Foundation

Received letters patent and charitable status on July 17, 2000

Founded in response to the Walkerton crisis by:

Walkerton Rotary Club

Saugeen Masonic Lodge

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus Auxiliary

St. Johns Ambulance Society

Walkerton Lions Club

Walkerton Optimists Club

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch No. 120

"Community Members" Group

Group is representative of practically every trade, type of business, profession or other calling or occupation in the Walkerton area.

Also, "Community Members" group is special member classification within the organizational structure consisted so as to allow individual citizens to participate in the Foundation work even if not members or one of the service clubs or non-profit organizations. As such, the Foundation represents a broad spectrum of the general population, the businesses and professionals of Walkerton.

Foundation Objectives:

- rendering assistance to those affected by E. coli infection and after, the promotion, fostering, development and support of community projects and initiatives
- activities identified as potential projects include:
 - support of environmental and agricultural initiatives in the Walkerton area including those relevant to agricultural nutrient management and the establishment of preservation and management of potable municipal water resources;
 - augmentation of medical, health and similar supportive services in Walkerton; and
 - education and programming for the public related to environmental, health and ecological related issues.

What Sets the Foundation Apart:

(from any other organization in Walkerton)

- uniquely broad spectrum that individual members of the Foundation's constituent member organizations represent;
- by very nature and organizational structure, Foundation represents the most non-partisan, apolitical and multi-faceted non-profit volunteer group of individuals in the area

- that the Foundation is the only registered charity set up specifically in response to the E. coli crisis
- that the Foundation represents an overwhelming majority of the active, organized service and non-profit volunteer community in Walkerton whose members will undoubtedly be the very individuals who will be personally involved as volunteers in all aspects of the eventual and ongoing rebuilding of our community's spirit and infrastructure

How the Foundation Satisfies the Criteria for Standing:

Substantial Interest

- size and broad spectrum representation by individual members and member organizations, i.e., substantial cross-section of general population, businesses, and professionals in Walkerton including representation of certain of the same who will not be represented at the inquiry by any other formal group or organization;
- organizational structure of the Foundation being comprised of a majority of the active service club and non-profit volunteer organizations in the Walkerton community, represents a unique perspective with respect to the effects the E. coli infection has had and will have on our community, being the perspective of volunteers who will be attempting to meet, foster and provide for the present and future needs of the community, arising out of this disaster

Direct Interest

- members all live or work within the Walkerton community, and as such, are personally, individually and directly affected by and intersected in the subject matter of the inquiry

Why the Foundation Seeks Funding:

- Foundation is an incorporated, registered, non-profit charity
- Foundation desires to preserve as much of its capital and income therefrom as it can for use in support of activities contemplated by its objectives and therefore don't want to divert funds from intended purposes

Possible Coalitions

- has not been formally discussed by Foundation executive; but are amenable to same and can advise that have had preliminary discussion with one group, the Walkerton and District Chamber of Commerce
- only concern is that not be forced into such an arrangement with any group or organization which has or is perceived to have interests which are dissimilar or which might potentially conflict with those of the Foundation.

2. Walkerton and District Chamber of Commerce

Note: submission consists of two, one page letters dated August 22nd and 23rd.

August 22nd letter:

- Chamber of Commerce represents 220 businesses in the Municipality of Brockton.
- Chamber is Committee of the Municipality and is governed by an 11-member voting executive consisting of business and municipal representatives.
- seeking standing at the “formal part” of the Walkerton inquiry.
- believe inquiry should address the issue of the economic implications of the absence of potable water in a community
- subject to receiving financial assistance from the inquiry, the Chamber plans to present evidence, assembled by qualified professionals, which shows the short and long term financial and economic implications of the e-coli crisis in Walkerton
- believe this evidence will help the inquiry in addressing the issue of risk management as it relates to the lost potable water in a community

August 23rd letter:

- further to August 22nd letter; also point out that some of our members have a vital interest in the existing communication mechanism for notifying them of a boil water advisory
- in this regard, our members feel that it would be in the public interest to review the existing protocol, its implications and to identify a system or procedure that is in the health interest of both employees and the public
- the Chamber is proposing to examine the impact of the existing communication mechanism in Walkerton from our members perspective and present findings to the Commission