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## **MEDIA RELEASE** ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

January 18, 2007

### **Public Comment Invited on Source Protection Committees**

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has recently posted a “discussion paper” on the formation and operation of the Clean Water Act’s Source Protection Committees for public comment.

**This is the opportunity for people interested in the Clean Water Act to advise the Province of Ontario about how Source Protection Committees should be formed and operated.** The comments MOE receives on this discussion paper will be used to draft a Source Protection Committee “regulation” which will also be posted for public comment later this winter/spring.

Under the Clean Water Act, a Source Protection Committee will be formed in each region to create locally-developed source protection plans. Source Protection Committees would be made up of local stakeholders such as municipalities, agriculture, landowners, industry, business, community groups and the general public. The regulation about Source Protection Committees will outline how these committees are formed and how they will operate.

Following the Walkerton tragedy in 2000, legislation to protect source water was developed with input from many sectors. The result was the Clean Water Act (formerly Bill 43) which was introduced in December 2005 and received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. The Clean Water Act is focussed on preventing the contamination and depletion of surface and groundwater sources that supply municipal drinking water systems with water. This Act will see municipalities, Conservation Authorities and all interested community stakeholders, collaborate to produce locally-developed, workable, effective, science-based plans to address risks to municipal drinking water.

A copy of the Source Protection Committee discussion paper can be found on the Ministry of Environment’s website at:  
[http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env\\_reg/er/documents/2007/Discussion%20Paper.pdf](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2007/Discussion%20Paper.pdf). If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact your local Conservation Authority to obtain a copy.

**Comments must be submitted in writing (reference EBR registry number PA06E0013) on or before February 1, 2007. Submit comments to:**

**James Scott, Senior Policy Analyst  
Strategic Policy Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 11th floor  
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5**

**PHONE: (416) 314-4130  
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Locally, Kawartha Conservation has partnered with four other Conservation Authorities in the region (Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Lower Trent and Otonabee Conservation Authorities) to start to develop an understanding of the sources of our drinking water. Conservation

Authorities will provide facilitation, coordination and technical support to the local Source Protection Committee.

Kawartha Conservation is a watershed-based environmental organization focused on providing abundant clean water within a healthy landscape. It is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario providing natural resources management. The Kawartha watershed includes the City of Kawartha Lakes; Township of Scugog; Township of Brock; Municipality of Clarington; Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan.

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**More information:**

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For more information on source water protection, please check the **Conservation Ontario** website at [www.conservation-ontario.on.ca](http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca). or the **Ministry of the Environment** website at [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/cwa.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/cwa.htm).