



**COMMUNIQUE** - 2012-01-23  
For immediate release

## **Ontario Approves Drinking Water Assessment Reports for Raisin Region and South Nation Source Protection Areas**

The Province of Ontario announced on January 23, 2012 that the Ministry of the Environment has approved drinking water assessment reports for the Raisin Region and South Nation source protection areas. Approval of these reports completes a major task assigned to the Raisin-South Nation Drinking Water Source Protection Committee (SPC), one of nineteen Source Protection Committees established throughout the province under the *Clean Water Act* to look at protecting municipal drinking water at its source.

“A lot of hard work and scientific study went into creating these assessment reports,” said Claude Cousineau, Chairman of the Raisin-South Nation SPC. “Successful completion of these reports takes us to the next important step – working with our local communities to create source protection planning policies that protect drinking water.” Mr. Cousineau expressed his appreciation to everyone who contributed to the development of the reports over the past couple of years. “I would like to thank the public as well as the municipalities who have provided input and worked with the committee and staff to prepare these assessment reports.”

The assessment reports identify protection zones around surface water intakes and wellhead protection areas around municipal wellheads for 26 communities that serve 100,000 people in eastern Ontario. Assessment reports also recognize any drinking water issues and list land-use activities that are or would be drinking water threats in vulnerable areas under certain circumstances. The assessment reports, including maps and detailed information on drinking water source protection planning in this region, are available online at [www.yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://www.yourdrinkingwater.ca).

Now that the science has been undertaken and the issues and concerns have been identified, the local SPC will now focus all of its efforts on the development of regionally based source protection planning policies. These comprehensive source protection plans will be developed locally and are due to be completed in 2012 after a period of municipal and public consultation.

The public will have opportunities in the spring of 2012 to review and provide input on draft source protection policies at a series of public meetings to be held throughout the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region.

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