



COMMUNIQUE - 2012-03-05
For immediate release

Seeking Public Comment on Draft Drinking Water Source Protection Plans

The Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee is currently seeking input from the public on a Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan for 26 municipal drinking water systems in eastern Ontario. The Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan is the culmination of five years of work, highlighting local efforts to keep sources of municipal drinking water clean and plentiful. Draft plans are available for public viewing on line at www.yourdrinkingwater.ca, through local municipal offices and Conservation Authorities. Written comments are being accepted for 35 days between March 1st and April 5th, 2012. Four Public Open Houses are also being held for latter part of March in Alexandria, Winchester, Casselman and Greely with details available on the website.

Prepared under the Ontario Clean Water Act (2006), the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan contains locally driven policies that respond to drinking water threats identified in recently released assessment reports. The assessment reports used the latest science to map out wellhead protection areas around municipal wellheads as well as intake protection zones around surface water intakes on the St. Lawrence, Ottawa, South Nation and Garry rivers. Drinking water issues and land-use activities that are or could pose drinking water threats in vulnerable areas were carefully analyzed and draft protection policies were developed that the Committee hopes will be practical and comprehensive.

“We have a strong commitment to provide a balanced approach to source protection planning,” said Claude Cousineau, chair of the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee. “We want to develop sound policies that protect drinking water. However, we are also working hard not to place unnecessary burdens on municipalities or property owners. We hope the public will take this opportunity to provide their input.”

For more details on this comment period or upcoming public open houses in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region please call Karen Cooper, Communications Specialist with the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Program at 1-866-938-3611 (ext. 247) or visit www.yourdrinkingwater.ca.

- 30 -

Contact:

Karen Cooper
Communications Specialist
Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Program
18045 County Road 2, P.O. Box 429
Cornwall, ON K6H 5T2
613-938-3611(ext. 247) or toll free 1-866-938-3611 (ext. 247)
e-mail: info@yourdrinkingwater.ca
website: www.yourdrinkingwater.ca