



COMMUNIQUE - 2012-08-15

For immediate release

**Local Source Protection Committee Marks a Milestone
for Protection of Municipal Drinking Water**

The Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee celebrated a watershed moment on August 15th as it delivered a plan to the province to protect local drinking water sources. Several years in the making, the proposed Source Protection Plan represents well over a million pieces of scientific data, thousands of pieces of correspondence, and hundreds of hours of community consultation. The culmination of all this work is a proposed set of strategic policies to protect water sources for 26 municipal drinking water systems in eastern Ontario.

Legislated through the Clean Water Act (2006) and developed collaboratively in consultation with area communities, the public and local conservation authorities, the Raisin-South Nation source protection plan focuses on protecting drinking water at its source. Protecting sources of municipal drinking water is a key component in the multi-barrier approach that was adopted by the province as a result of the 2002 report of the Walkerton Inquiry.

Claude Cousineau, chair of the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee says, "Getting to this point in the process is extremely satisfying. It has been a collaborative effort and we have had a great deal of input from municipalities, businesses and the agricultural community, as well as from members of the general public." He added, "As a result of this involvement, I believe that this proposed Plan manages to strike the right balance between practical strategies and results."

The Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan is now awaiting approval by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. It is available for viewing on the program's website at www.yourdrinkingwater.ca.

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