

DRAFT

The Walkerton Inquiry

Expert Meeting on: Government Responsibility for Drinking Water

May 16 – 17, 2001
Coffee from 09:30
Meeting 10:00 – 16:00

Note: the meeting may conclude on May 16. If you do not attend on May 16, please check with Arlette Al-Shaikh ((416) 326-3002) before attending on May 17.

LOCATION

Ryerson University
International Conference Centre
240 Jarvis Street
Toronto
(for map please visit www.ryerson.ca/illc/directions.html)

Chair: Ronald Foerster

AGENDA

- A. Review of process and conduct of the meeting (Chair)
- B. Introduction of participants (All)
- C. Review of the scope of the meeting (Chair)

D. Role of the Federal Government¹

- Constitutional jurisdiction
- De Facto power

Areas in which the Federal Government can and/or should get involved such as standards, research and development, source protection, financing, etc.

Advisability of using *Food and Drug Act* type powers to assert Federal jurisdiction

- Need for/availability of Federal leadership and coordination in respect of issues related to drinking water safety

E. Role of the Provincial Government

- Constitutional jurisdiction
- De Facto power

Aspects of the safety of drinking water where the Provincial government has, or should take responsibility including standard setting, source protection, treatment, distribution, as well as non-municipal and private systems

Should the Provincial Government be the repository of ultimate responsibility in respect of matters affecting drinking water safety?

Can a case be made for an arms-length public body which as responsibility for drinking water?

F. Role of Municipal/Regional Governments

- Municipal role in respect of source protection; operation of treatment/distribution systems (Should these continue to be local responsibilities?)
- Interface between Municipal and Provincial/Federal Governments (Is the local role primarily to implement the policies set by senior levels of government?)

¹ Note: Issues specific to First Nations will be dealt with as a separate agenda item below

- Can small municipalities play the same role as large ones?
- Do municipalities have the tools to perform their role?
- Is there a need for an intermediate level of responsibility? (Groups of municipalities to realize economies of scale for treatment or in recognition of the importance of the watershed as an organizational tool)

G. The need for co-ordination among levels of government

- Areas where coordination is most important
- Suggested mechanisms for coordination

H. First Nations and responsibility for the safety of drinking water

- Federal/Provincial constitutional issues (which level of government has ultimate responsibility for the safety of drinking water on First Nations reserves)
- Aboriginal rights

What is the extent of potential conflict between provincial/federal regulation and Aboriginal rights?

- Role of First Nations Governments