

**TRAGEDY ON TAP:  
WHY ONTARIO NEEDS A  
*SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT***

**VOLUME II**

Submissions of the  
Concerned Walkerton Citizens  
and  
Canadian Environmental Law Association  
to Part II of the Walkerton Inquiry

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This report is dedicated to the people of Walkerton. May their struggle bring clean water to all future Ontarians ...

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **FOREWORD**

A year ago, as spring arrived in the picturesque farming community of Walkerton, Ontario, it ushered in an intruder, *E. coli* 0157:H7, that invaded the community water delivery system, causing the death of seven people and sickening thousands of others. Shortly after this, the Concerned Walkerton Citizens invited the Canadian Environmental Law Association to represent them in the public inquiry convened to examine the tragedy and the safety of Ontario's drinking water systems. Both groups have prepared this Issue Paper for the Part II Study Phase of the Inquiry. It has drawn on the experience of the people of Walkerton, the Inquiry evidence to date, the history of Ontario water protection and our examinations of the best models drawn from water protection regimes around the world. It is our collective hope that the legacy of Walkerton will be a *Safe Drinking Water Act* built on the recommendations offered in this study. Walkerton has made waves world-wide and caused many jurisdictions to examine and change drinking water protections and practices. This paper is accurate up to May 15, 2001, the date of its submission to the Honourable Justice Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissioner of the Walkerton Inquiry.