

THE WALKERTON INQUIRY



The Honourable Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissioner

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Public Hearings in Part 2 **List of Topics for Proposed Recommendations** (May 25, 2001)

The list provided below was referred to in the Notice to Parties in Part 2 - Process for Public Hearings that was circulated May 18, 2001. Both the Notice and this list are available on our website at www.walkertoninquiry.com/part2info.

The purpose of this list is to provide guidance to the parties about the subject matter of the public hearings. Parties should refer to the list in organizing and submitting their proposed recommendations to the Commissioner.

The list is intended to be broad and not exhaustive. In their written submissions for a given public hearing, parties are welcome to propose recommendations that are related to, but not specifically listed as, a topic outlined below. Parties are welcome to suggest topics to add to the list, but should keep in mind that more detailed outlines of the public hearings will be made available in the future.

Public Hearing #1: Guiding Principles; Overall Government Role; First Nations

1. Recommendations regarding guiding principles
 - a. Clear responsibilities and leadership
 - b. Risk management/ Precautionary principle
 - c. Multi-barrier approach
 - d. Source to return-to-source protection
 - e. Public participation
 - f. Other principles

2. Recommendations regarding overall role of government
 - a. Constitutional responsibility
 - i. Role of Federal Government

- ii. Role of First Nations Governments
- iii. Role of Provincial Government
- b. Provincial Government structure to provide safe drinking water
- c. Safe Drinking Water Act

Public Hearing #2 & 3: Provincial Government: Functions & Resources

- 3. Recommendations regarding Provincial Government
 - a. Overall policy and standards
 - b. Approvals/ Licensing
 - c. Environmental assessment
 - d. Accreditation
 - e. Oversight
 - f. Operations
 - g. Human resources management
 - h. Public involvement
 - i. Emergency planning
 - j. Other functions
- 4. Recommendations regarding relationship to other public institutions
 - a. Overall coordination role of Provincial Government
 - b. Relationship to Municipalities
 - c. Relationship to Health Units
 - d. Relationship to Conservation Authorities

Public Hearing #4: Source Protection

- 5. Recommendations regarding source protection
 - a. Lead role; key players
 - b. Public involvement
 - c. Source protection plans
 - d. Groundwater management

Public Hearing #5: Regulatory and Technical Issues for Specific Sources of Contaminants; Water Quantity

6. Recommendations regarding agricultural contaminants
 - a. Agricultural Operations Act
7. Recommendations regarding human wastewater and biosolids
 - a. Municipal sewage effluent
 - b. Septic tanks
 - c. Biosolids
8. Recommendations regarding other contaminant sources
 - a. Landfills
 - b. Urban Development
 - c. Industrial Activity
 - d. Forestry
 - e. Mining
9. Recommendations regarding water quantity

Public Hearing #6: Standards; Technology; Small Systems

10. Recommendations regarding standards development
 - a. Process for setting standards/ public involvement
 - b. Appropriateness of current standards
 - c. Role of the Federal Government
11. Recommendations regarding technology and monitoring of municipal water and wastewater
12. Recommendations regarding small drinking water systems
 - a. Private systems
 - b. Private systems serving the public
 - c. Private communal systems

Public Hearings #7 & #8: Management of Water Providers; Laboratories

13. Recommendations regarding management of drinking water systems

- a. Organizations
 - i. accreditation
 - ii. appropriate size
- b. Individuals
- c. Evaluation and audit
- d. Relationship to the public
- e. Financing
- f. Upgrading current organizations
- g. Implications of public vs. private ownership and operation

14. Recommendations regarding laboratories

- a. Accreditation
- b. Research laboratories
- c. Routine testing laboratories
- d. Communication and notification
- e. Integration/ Conflict of interest