

## ***THE WALKERTON INQUIRY***

The Honourable Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissioner  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WALKERTON INQUIRY ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

The Walkerton Inquiry plans a door-to-door survey during the next few weeks of about 400 Walkerton households and most businesses in order to assess the economic impact of last May's water contamination that claimed seven lives and made 2,300 people ill. The survey is part of a study commissioned by the Inquiry and will be part of its report. Commissioner Dennis O'Connor has said he plans to deliver his findings to the Government of Ontario by the end of the year.

The study will be carried out by Dr. John Livernois of the Department of Economics at the University of Guelph and Professor Fred Evers of the Department of Sociology at the University of Guelph. Interviewers will meet personally with the people surveyed who will be chosen at random from a list of residents such as tax rolls or utility bills.

The study will also look at the cost of the cleanup and of upgrading water facilities, loss of business, impacts on households, property values, direct cost to the government and any other relevant costs.

The information gathered will be presented in the form of summary data in order to protect the anonymity of those interviewed. Personal details of those interviewed will remain confidential. The information gathered will not be available for litigation purposes.

(Arrangements can be made for media interviews with Dr. Livernois) Further information:

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