

THE WALKERTON INQUIRY

The Honourable Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissioner

180 Dundas Street West, 22nd Floor Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z8

Phone: (416) 326-4498 or 1-877-543-8598 Fax: (416) 327-8782

MEDIA RELEASE, APRIL 30, 2001

WALKERTON INQUIRY TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING IN WINDSOR ON TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001.

TORONTO – The Walkerton Inquiry will hold a town hall meeting in Windsor on Tuesday, June 12 at the Fogolar Furlan Club, 1800 EC Row Avenue East.

Commissioner Dennis R. O'Connor, who will chair the meeting, is interested in hearing from municipalities, organizations and individuals in the Windsor area in order to make recommendations in his final report, which will deal with the Walkerton tragedy and with the future safety of drinking water in Ontario.

The meeting is the fourth in a series that have been scheduled in various communities across Ontario. Previous meetings have been held in Waterloo and Peterborough. Another is scheduled for North Bay on May 1. Others will be held in Thunder Bay, Kingston, Toronto and Ottawa.

The purpose of the town hall meetings is to give Commissioner Dennis R. O'Connor an opportunity to hear concerns about drinking water from a broad spectrum of the Ontario public.

“We want as diverse a range of views and options as possible so when it comes time to draw up recommendations, I'd like to be confident that there is no serious school of thought or view that has not been tapped,” Commissioner O'Connor said.

The Windsor meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The proceedings will be taped by Cogeco Community Television and shown on Channel 11.

Parties interested in making presentations should provide a written request and a short summary of their presentations by June 1, 2001 to:

The Walkerton Inquiry
c/o Town Hall Meetings
P.O. Box 789, Trillium Court
Walkerton, Ontario
Fax: (519) 881-4706

Those unable to attend may provide comments in writing. All written submissions will be read and carefully considered by Commission staff, and will form part of the public record of the Inquiry.

The Walkerton Inquiry is an independent Commission established on June 12, 2000 by the Government of Ontario under the Public Inquiries Act. The Commission's mandate is to examine the cause of contamination of the water supply in Walkerton, Ontario, by E.coli bacteria, and to make recommendations to ensure the safety of drinking water in Ontario. Seven people died as a result of the contamination and 2,300 became ill.

The Inquiry's formal hearings began in Walkerton on October 16, 2000 and are continuing.

The Commissioner's findings, conclusions and recommendations will be delivered to the Attorney General of Ontario who will make them public. He aims to deliver his final report by the end of the year.

More information is available on the Inquiry's website at www.walkertoninquiry.com.

Media Contact:
Peter Rehak
Communications Officer
The Walkerton Inquiry
(416) 327-9168
cell: 416-992-0679