



MEDIA RELEASE, JULY 5, 2001

CHIEF OF GULL BAY FIRST NATION, MAYOR OF THUNDER BAY, PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL CITIZENS TO SPEAK AT THE WALKERTON INQUIRY'S TOWN HALL MEETING AT THE FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION RESERVE NEXT TUESDAY, JULY 10.

WALKERTON, Ont. – Chief Oliver Poile of the Gull Bay First Nation and Mayor Ken Boshcoff of Thunder Bay are among the scheduled speakers at next Tuesday's town hall meeting about water concerns, chaired by Commissioner Dennis R. O'Connor of the Walkerton Inquiry.

The meeting is one of a series being held across the province by the Commissioner in order to hear local concerns about drinking water. The session will be held at the Fort William First Nation Bingo Hall/Ski Lodge from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The proceedings will be recorded by Shaw TV Cable 7 and will be shown on Wednesday, July 11 at 10 a.m.; and again on Thursday, July 12 at 7p.m.; Friday, July 13 at 8:30 a.m.; Saturday, July 14 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, July 15 at 8 p.m.

Both sessions are open to the public. A Thunder Bay city bus has been laid on for the public. It will depart Thunder Bay City Hall at noon and again at 6 p.m. for the Bingo Hall/Ski Lodge at Mountain Road near Chippewa Road, returning at 5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Other speakers scheduled include Doug Scott, President of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association; Richard Clara, manager of Enviro-Test Laboratories; Sterling Lysnes, an intervenor in the Thunder Bay Future Water Supply Committee and a number of private citizens. A full list of presenters and additional information is available on the Inquiry's website, www.walkertoninquiry.com.

During his stay in Thunder Bay/Fort William, Commissioner O'Connor will tour the Loch Lomond and the Bare Point water treatment plants and the Enviro-Test Laboratories. Prof. William Leiss, a member of the Inquiry's Research Advisory Panel, will accompany Commissioner O'Connor. Prof. Leiss is President of the Royal Society of Canada and holds the NSERC/SSHRC/Industry Research Chair in risk Communication and Public policy at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Management. A thumbnail biography of Prof. Leiss is available on the inquiry's web page under "Advisory Panel."

Walkerton

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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.

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.

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.

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