



## **MEDIA RELEASE, JULY 9, 2001**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR PART 2 OF THE WALKERTON INQUIRY, DEALING WITH THE FUTURE SAFETY OF DRINKING WATER IN ONTARIO, START ON THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2001, IN TORONTO.**

TORONTO – The first of eight public hearings dealing with various aspects of drinking water safety will be held on Thursday, July 12, at Ryerson Polytechnic University's Jorgenson Hall, 380 Victoria Street, Toronto. (RoomA250)

The session will deal with the overall guiding principles, the role of government and the situation on First Nations reserves. The hearings are the culmination of wide-ranging research projects and expert discussions that started simultaneously with the hearings in Walkerton.

Presentations at the public hearings will be made mainly by parties with standing at the Inquiry. Groups that do not have standing and members of the public will be able to make written submissions and may be invited to participate if the Commissioner feels that the submissions represent a perspective that will be useful to him and will not otherwise be represented by the parties with standing. Transcripts of the proceedings will be posted on the Inquiry's web site.

Presenters at the July 12 hearing include Conservation Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Energy Probe, the Ontario Municipal Water Association and the Ontario Water Works Association as well as the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Ontario Public Service Union (OPSEU) and the Chief of Ontario.

Additional public hearings will be held on July 17 and 18 and on July 22 and 23, all at Ryerson Polytechnic University's Jorgenson Hall. These will deal with recommendations to the provincial government. Topics include overall policy standards, approval, licensing, oversights, human resource management and emergency planning.

The remaining hearings will be held on August 2 and 3, September 6 and 7, 11 and 12, 19 and 20, 24 and 25. A venue has not yet been announced. More details are available Under Part 2 on the Inquiry's web page at [www.walkertoninquiry.com](http://www.walkertoninquiry.com).

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#### **Walkerton**

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