



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### LOCAL DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE FORMED

**Sudbury, ON~ A new Committee committed to keeping our municipal drinking water clean at the source is being announced today.**

The official Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee has been formed under Ontario's new *Clean Water Act*, which came into force on July 3, 2007. The 10 member Committee was chosen by the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority in October 2007, after reviewing public nominations received from the community.

The Source Protection Committee will work on developing strategies to reduce significant threats to our local sources of municipal drinking water. Over the next five years, they will create a Terms of Reference work plan, an Assessment Report and develop a science-based Source Protection Plan. This plan will consist of effective 'made in Sudbury' strategies to protect our 25 sources of municipal drinking water from any current and future significant threats. In Greater Sudbury, our municipal drinking water comes from 3 surface water sources: Ramsey Lake, the Vermilion River and the Wanapitei River and 22 municipal groundwater wells.

In August 2007, Mr. Nels Conroy was appointed Chair of the Source Protection Committee by the Ontario Minister of the Environment. "I am extremely pleased to see a diversity of community expertise, energy and enthusiasm in this group, this will ensure a collaborative 'made in Sudbury' approach to keeping our sources of municipal drinking water clean" stated Mr. Nels Conroy, at their inaugural meeting held November 27, 2007.

An official media briefing will take place at the Willet Green Miller Centre on **Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 12:30 pm in Room B2052** before the Committee's regular scheduled meeting.

The 10 member Committee consists of a variety of key stakeholders including three City of Greater Sudbury Representatives:

- o Stephen Monet, Manager of Environmental Planning;
- o Paul Baskcomb, Manager of Community & Strategic Planning;
- o Nick Benkovich, Director, Municipal Water & Wastewater Services;

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Three Economic Sector members:

- Wendy Wisniewski, Mining Representative;
- Luc Bock, Land Development Representative;
- Greg Haddad, Small Business Representative;

Three Other Interests members including:

- Lilly Noble, Environmental Non-Governmental Representative;
- Tim Worton, Public Member Representative;
- Don Malette, Public Member Representative;

In addition to these members, there is:

- Crystal Osawamick, Wahnapiatae First Nations Representative;

Three non-voting liaison members from the:

- Ministry of the Environment, (still to be appointed);
- Bob Rogers, Source Protection Authority;
- Ed Gardner, Sudbury and District Health Unit;

This is the Committee's third meeting since they were appointed on October 25, 2007. They have already received a full training session from the Ministry of the Environment regarding their roles and responsibilities under the *Clean Water Act*.

Drinking Water Protection Staff are providing the Committee with background scientific information and drawing upon our community's wealth of resources. At today's training meeting, members will get an in-depth multi-dimensional view of Ramsey Lake using MIRARCO's Virtual Reality Lab. "This virtual reality lab is a great way to educate people to understand the reality of complex data-sets including hydrology, water chemistry and geology," says Graeme Spiers, Director of the Centre for Environmental Monitoring at MIRARCO.

The Source Protection Committee will be holding monthly meetings which are open to the public. During the various stages of developing the Terms of Reference work plan, members will be seeking public consultation later this year and throughout the coming years. If you have an interest in future meetings, or would like some more information please contact Nathalie Gara-Boivin at [Nathalie.Gara-Boivin@greatersudbury.ca](mailto:Nathalie.Gara-Boivin@greatersudbury.ca). or by calling the office at (705) 674-5249 or by visiting our website at [www.nickeldistrict.ca](http://www.nickeldistrict.ca).