



March 5, 2004

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg, Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty

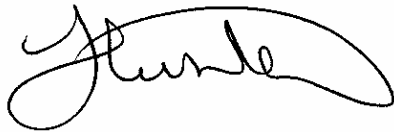
Conservation Ontario, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ontario Nature, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society are committed to the protection of Ontario's water resources and look forward to working with you and your Ministers on this most important matter.

Further to our letter of October 20, 2003, we are pleased with the establishment of the source protection implementation and technical experts committees. Three of our organizations have representation on these committees and look forward to actively participating in their deliberations. The development of a threats assessment process as well as tools and approaches for implementation are critical to the success of source water protection planning.

Clearly these committees must be afforded the time to do their work properly. At the same time, we encourage the Province to prepare to move forward in a timely manner with implementation of source water protection. The development of a sustainable funding model for source protection planning, which addresses plan development, maintenance and on-going implementation, is of utmost importance. In this regard, a substantial Provincial investment in the proper work for and initial efforts on the development of "first generation" source protection plans in this fiscal year is a must. We urge you and the Minister of Finance to make source protection planning a priority in your upcoming budget.

The release of the Province's White Paper on Watershed-based Source Protection Planning is an excellent next step in protecting Ontario's water resources. We look forward to working with your government and other stakeholders after the current consultations are completed. As always, our representatives are available to meet with you to discuss the government's direction on source protection.

Yours sincerely,



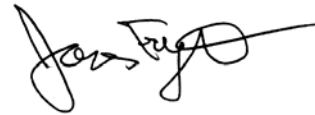
Dick Hunter, General Manager
Conservation Ontario



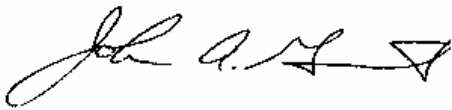
Tod Wright, Senior Provincial Director - Ontario
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Theresa McClenaghan, Managing Lawyer
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c.c. Minister Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance
Minister Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of the Environment
Minister David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources
Minister Steve Peters, Minister of Agriculture and Food
Minister John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Minister David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal