



**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION**  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

September 27, 2000

**BY FAX**

The Hon. Mike Harris  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Mr. Dalton McGuinty  
Leader, Official Opposition  
Office of the Leader, Liberal Party  
Room 325  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Mr. Howard Hampton  
Leader, New Democratic Party  
Office of the Leader  
Room 381  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Sirs:

**RE: BILL 96: SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, 2000**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) with respect to Bill 96, the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2000*. It is our understanding that this Bill is scheduled for Second Reading debate on Thursday, September 28, 2000.

As you know, CELA has long advocated the enactment of safe drinking water legislation in Ontario. Most recently, CELA and others applied under the *Environmental Bill of Rights* for a formal review of the need for safe drinking water legislation. Several weeks ago, Ministry of the Environment staff advised CELA that the EBR review will be proceeding as requested.

In our view, the public right to safe drinking water should be entrenched in a comprehensive statute, rather than in a mixed collection of regulations, policies, objectives or guidelines. Thus,

CELA supports the passage of Bill 96, which codifies a number of important rights and remedies for protecting drinking water and its sources in Ontario.

Accordingly, CELA calls upon all parties to ensure that Bill 96 receives Second Reading and is referred to committee for hearings. Safe drinking water is not a partisan issue, and we request the cooperation of all parties to ensure the speedy passage of this long overdue legislation.

Could you kindly advise us in writing, with reasons, whether your party will be supporting Bill 96 at Second Reading?

We look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION**

Richard D. Lindgren  
Counsel

cc. Mr. Jim Bradley, MPP  
Ms. Marilyn Churley, MPP