

2002 alPha RESOLUTION NO. A02 - 9

TITLE: Safe Drinking Water

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS guidelines are not strong enough to ensure safe drinking water by protecting water at its sources; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) appears to take the position that the community must prove harm to the environment before it will act, despite scientific evidence that there are contamination issues; and

WHEREAS the MOE's surface water testing near sound-sorb (paper-fibre biosolids and sand) showed significant exceedences against both the Contaminated Site Guidelines Table A (a potable groundwater condition) and the Provincial Water Quality Guidelines; and

WHEREAS testing of the Oshawa sound-sorb berm showed significant E.coli contamination, as did the testing by the Region of Durham using Gartner Lee, an independent consultant, and to date the MOE has ordered no remedial action; and

WHEREAS it would be desirable to have a province-wide statutory and regulatory water source protection obligation for rural residents; and

WHEREAS in Walkerton seven people died and more than two thousand and three hundred became ill as a result of contaminated drinking water which occurred because of a lack of co-ordination as emphasized at the Walkerton inquiry,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPha) urges the Government of Ontario to establish a drinking water branch in the Ontario Ministry of the Environment which would encompass protecting sources and conservation in regards to safe water, especially on the Oak Ridges Moraine, and enacting policies and practices directed at preventing drinking water problems.

Action from Conference:

Moved:

R. Kyle (Durham)

Seconded:

B. MacKay (Toronto)

Carried