

## Best Practices Endorsement Letter from Source Protection Committee (SPC)

May 2023

To Municipal Partners:

### **Re: Endorsement of Best Practices for Source Water Protection**

In the winter of 2021, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks released "Best Practices for Source Water Protection" (Best Practices) as a voluntary program. The Best Practices can be used on any type of drinking water system, beyond those already covered by the Thames-Sydenham Region Source Protection Plan.

The Thames-Sydenham Region Source Protection Committee is encouraged to see progress in recognizing the need for source water protection for all Ontario residents, not just those with access to municipal drinking water. Source water protection should be provided in rural as well as in urban areas. The Committee strongly supports initiatives to implement the Best Practices for Source Water Protection program for rural communities.

At present, municipalities have the ability to designate other sources to be protected by the Clean Water Act, unfortunately, the costs to do so are considered unaffordable especially by the smaller, rural municipalities found in Southwestern Ontario. As a result, residents not serviced by municipal public water supply systems do not receive the same degree of source water protection as do those serviced by municipal systems and are left with few tools to protect these sensitive areas.

Source Protection Committees across Ontario have long been advocating for source protection for all drinking water systems to overcome these concerns. Therefore, the Committee strongly encourages municipalities: to investigate the use of the Best Practices for Source Water Protection program for other non-municipal systems, and highly vulnerable rural areas with large well and septic clusters.

By this letter the Thames-Sydenham Region Source Protection Committee is endorsing the implementation of the Best Practices for Source Water Protection program. We would be pleased to discuss this further with you at your convenience and to support your municipality in the source protection process.

Yours truly,



Dean Edwardson  
Chair, Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region