

Thursday, May 15, 2024

VIA EMAIL

RE: Resolution – Well-Water Testing

At its Regular Meeting of Council and Committee of the Whole held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution 2024-172

Moved by: Councillor Dykie

Seconded by: Councillor Verkaik

WHEREAS private water systems (e.g., wells) are not protected through legislated requirements under *The Safe Drinking Water Act 2002* and *The Clean Water Act 2006*, but are more likely to contribute to cases of gastrointestinal illness than municipal systems; and

WHEREAS the 2023 Ontario Auditor General's value-for-money audit of Public Health Ontario (PHO) recommended that PHO, in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Health, begin the gradual discontinuance of free private drinking water testing; and

WHEREAS, in Bradford West Gwillimbury, approximately 3200 households do not receive water from municipal systems, with many relying on a private drinking water system, including wells; and

WHEREAS the Walkerton Inquiry Report Part II, concluded the privatization of laboratory testing of drinking water samples contributed directly to the E. coli outbreak in Walkerton, Ontario in May 2000; and

WHEREAS all Ontarians deserve safe, clean water, and free well-water testing is a way to help ensure that residents on private wells continue to have barrier-free access to well water testing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Council call on the Province to not phase out free well-water testing as part of the proposed streamlining efforts of public health laboratory operations in the province; and

THAT this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health; Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, York—Simcoe's MPP; and all Ontario Municipalities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,



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CC:

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health;
Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs;
Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, York—
Simcoe's MPP; and
All Ontario Municipalities