

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Health Services Committee Members

FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services
Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 18, 2012

RE: **York Region Small Drinking Water Systems Update**

In 2008, the Province transferred responsibility from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for inspection of small drinking water systems (i.e., non-residential systems and seasonal residential systems serving facilities such as churches, motels/hotels, community halls, arenas, trailer parks, and campgrounds). To this end, Ontario Regulation 319/08 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* delineates the responsibilities of the Medical Officer of Health and public health inspectors with respect to small drinking water systems. Report No. 4 of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee (May 15, 2008) outlined the transfer of responsibility and the accompanying move from a standards-driven approach to a site-specific risk assessment model for small drinking water systems.

As a follow-up to that report, which recommended that staff report back once the risk assessment process was completed, this memo provides the outcome of risk assessments in the Region:

- York Region public health inspectors began visits to small drinking water systems to carry out risk assessments in 2008. All potential small drinking water systems were visited by 2011 and assigned a risk classification using the provincially-developed Risk Categorization tool, based on factors such as source of water, treatment system and distribution system.
- It was found that there are 310 small drinking water systems in the Region. Of these:
 - Approximately 20% of systems are classified as a high risk level and will be inspected a minimum of once every two years.
 - Approximately 80% are classified as moderate or low risk and will be inspected a minimum of once every four years.
- The results of the assessments determined system-specific requirements for water testing, treatment options and training. These requirements are outlined in customized directives that have been issued to the owner or operator of each small drinking water system.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Dr. Karim Kurji
Medical Officer of Health