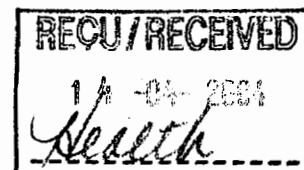


**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto Ontario
M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.mto.gov.on.ca

**Ministère des
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Bureau du ministre
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77, rue Wellesley ouest
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APR 07 2004

Mr. Bill Fisch
Regional Chair and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Fisch:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the ministry review its catch basin design standards with a view to preventing catch basins from being used as a breeding habitat for mosquitoes that may carry the West Nile Virus.

I am pleased to advise you that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) will be reviewing modifications to these design standards to eliminate mosquito-breeding habitat. We expect that any design changes that are needed will be introduced in 2005. MTO will consult with municipalities on the changes through the Ontario Provincial Standards System committee structure.

MTO is also reviewing best practices in other jurisdictions and will be working with other ministries, local municipalities and health units to look at other new ideas, devices and procedures to assist in making Ontario as safe as possible from the West Nile Virus.

Thank you again for your interest in the control of the West Nile Virus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Takhar".

Harinder S. Takhar
Minister

c: Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario