



Building Markham's Future Together
Journey to Excellence

TAKING CARE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Statutory Standard of Care



April 27, 2015

“Given that the safety of drinking water is essential for public health, those who discharge the oversight responsibilities of the municipality should be held to a statutory standard of care.”

Justice Dennis O'Connor, 2002, Report of the Walkerton Inquiry

City of Markham's Water Supply & Distribution System

Toronto Water Treatment Plant

Lake Ontario

Storage Reservoir
(Water Tower)

Water
Booster
Pump

Hydrant

Markham's Water Distribution System



Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program

For a drinking water system to receive or renew its licence, the owner must have in place:

1. A drinking water works permit (DWWP)
2. An accepted operational plan (based on the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard – DWQMS)
3. An accredited operating authority
4. A financial plan
5. A permit to take water (not required for distribution only systems)

Are you an owner?

Members of municipal councils and municipal officials who provide oversight to this corporate entity also provide oversight or exercise decision-making authority in respect of the drinking water systems it owns.

You are personally liable/responsible for having policies, management tools and processes in place so that the municipality meets all its legislative and regulatory requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).



What are your responsibilities?

Owners (Council) are responsible for ensuring their drinking water systems:

- ✓ provide water that meets all prescribed drinking water quality standards
- ✓ operate in accordance with the act and its regulations, and are kept in a fit state of repair
- ✓ are appropriately staffed and supervised by qualified persons
- ✓ comply with all sampling, testing and monitoring requirements
- ✓ meet all reporting requirements

Standard of Care

- Standard of Care provisions under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) apply to the Owner (Council) and the Operating Authority (Top Management/Waterworks).
- Expectation to exercise the level of care, diligence and skill in respect of a municipal drinking water system that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation.
- Measures have been implemented to continually assess the drinking water system and help ensure Standard of Care provisions are met (due diligence).

Standard of Care

- Statutory Standard of Care Training for Council
 - ✓ Offered in the fall of 2011 in Markham.
 - ✓ Additional session was held in Whitchurch-Stouffville in 2012.
 - ✓ **Walkerton Clean Water Centre offering training in York Region:**
 - **May 19th, 2015 in Whitchurch-Stouffville**
 - ✓ Business Compliance staff will provide additional training session, as requested.

Recommendation

- That the staff presentation “Taking Care of Your Drinking Water” be received;
- And that staff be directed to arrange Standard of Care training.



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