

ANISHINABEK TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & WATER POLICY REPORT



Prepared For:
Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council
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Prepared By:
AORMC Water Working Group





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Anishinabek Nation has taken a leadership position on all water resources and is dedicated to providing support to their member First Nation communities on water issues that range from water quality and quantity, water management and the management of other resources that are dependent on water. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) plays a significant role in ensuring that Ontario's water resources support the needs of Ontarians and a healthy natural environment now and into the future.

The Water Working Group (WWG) is divided evenly between Anishinabek Nation representatives and MNR staff whose goal is to support the Work of the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC). The WWG is mandated by the AORMC to discuss water management issues, facilitate a common understanding, exchange information, and collaborate on the resolution of issues. The WWG developed and hosted the 'Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference'.

The Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference was inspired by the need to explore together the many interrelationships with water. The Conference was to promote the understanding of water issues throughout the Anishinabek Nation, the provincial government, and other various interest groups. This Conference was designed to promote relationship building between the Anishinabek Nation and the Province. It was also designed to further understand traditional knowledge with respect to water policy issues.

The Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference was held on February 25 & 26, 2008 in Garden River First Nation. Participants included representatives from 26 First Nation communities, provincial government ministries, Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's), industry, youth, consultants, academia, water plant operators, and other Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTO's).

The Conference objectives were to:

- Educate and raise awareness of the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council, Union of Ontario Indians, and Government initiatives and programs.
- Consolidate and list issues on the water landscape
- Collect data and feedback on issues of concern to participants to produce a report
- Define next steps/priorities for the Water Working Group to present to the AORMC.

The Conference commenced with Keynote Speakers, Josephine Mandamin and April Jones from the newly appointed Anishinabek Women's Water Commission on "The Spirit of Water and the Role of Women." The themes for the three workshops were:

1. The UOI Women's Water Commission and Great Lakes Water Management
2. Source Water Protection, Drinking Water and Protection of Headwaters
3. Water Management Planning and New Site Release Policy

The Conference ended with a panel discussion and a question and answer session.

WHAT WE HEARD, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND FOLLOW UP

What We Heard At the Conference

1. Anishinabek women were given cultural responsibility for water and play a leadership role in water issues.
2. Great Lakes water management is a complex field requiring participation from all people (First Nations and Tribes, scientific community, PTOs, etc.).
3. All parties need to work together, share perspectives, and respect and trust each other.
4. Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge has value on its own; it does not need to be integrated with science but they both need to be considered when making decisions in water management.
5. First Nation People need to reconnect with traditional knowledge.
6. Source water protection is a serious concern for Aboriginal communities. First Nations are on the periphery of provincial Drinking Water Source Water Protection planning.
7. There is a lack of clarity regarding federal and provincial roles and responsibilities for headwater protection of First Nation communities' drinking water.
8. Operations and maintenance of drinking water systems in First Nations communities are under-resourced.
9. First Nations are at a disadvantage in accessing new opportunities for waterpower development; need to increase capacity through policy and education.
10. First Nations are affected by impacts to their source water without effective input into development proposals and without receiving benefits from the development.
11. Youth are interested in issues involving water; they need to be engaged through exposure to educational opportunities (conferences, courses, jobs, capacity building).
12. Anishinabek People want to be included when water issues are being discussed (policy development, proposal review, etc.).
13. Anishinabek people share a common ownership and responsibility for water; Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge is critical to sustainable management of water.
14. Respect for Anishinabek laws and reducing consumption through conservation of water resources will lead to sustainability.
15. Anishinabek Nation needs to assert their jurisdiction and rights over water.
16. Governments need to respect the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations.

Conclusions

Water is a vital resource for the survival of Mother Earth and it is important that the Anishinabe Kwe (women) keep and reconnect with their traditional roles as water keepers. Anishinabek people believe that water keepers have the responsibility to defend and ensure the protection, availability, and purity of water for seven generations.

The pollution and degradation of watersheds and water bodies have had a severe impact on Anishinabek Peoples' way of life. Anishinabek people have tremendous knowledge regarding the waters in their traditional areas and this knowledge can have positive impacts to legislation, policy and programs. Acknowledging that Traditional Knowledge is just as important as science is a step towards remedial actions and can play a vital role in development of legislation, policy and programs. Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge can also be used to establish meaningful dialogue with the First Nations and its citizens with respect to governments.

The Conference has led to increased understanding of policy, Traditional Knowledge, and industry's role for both First Nation communities and governments. For Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge to be incorporated into water policy in Ontario, governments at all levels will have to sit with First Nation communities and listen to what is being said.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are in priority sequence, they were drafted by the Water Working Group in response to 'What We Heard' at the conference. We recommend that the AORMC:

- 1. Ensure the continued understanding of, respect for and adoption of Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and practices as they relate to water management by MNR and UOI by:**
 - Promoting the development of a policy regarding the internal and external use of Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge among Anishinabek communities
 - Inviting the Water Working Group and the Women's Water Commission to discuss ways to facilitate and incorporate ATK into government water policy development

- 2. Support and endorse the work of the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission (WWC), as they assume a leadership role in raising the awareness of Great Lakes Basin waters and impacts to its quality and quantity and share their traditional knowledge and teachings about water by:**
 - Appointing a WWC commissioner to the AORMC table;
 - Encouraging teachings by the WWC in each of the 4 Anishinabek Regions each year to communities, government officials and youth;
 - Through the WWC, promoting education, awareness and respect of Women's leadership role with respect to water within the Anishinabek Nation and the Ontario Government;
 - Coordinating the involvement of the WWC with the Anishinabek Elder's Council.

- 3. Promote increased opportunities for First Nations in water power developments and encourage growth in capacity so that communities can be successful in accessing opportunities by:**
 - Requesting a review of the Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy to increase opportunities in water power development for First Nations;
 - Assisting with the development of tools for First Nations that will enable them to participate in water power projects (e.g. inventory of funding sources available, training opportunities, partnerships).

- 4. Facilitate and support Anishinabek communities' capacity to understand and take ownership of headwater protection, drinking water source protection and management of drinking water systems by:**
 - Promoting the development of protocols by communities on development within headwater areas;
 - Exploring options to clarify the Federal and Provincial government's roles and responsibilities for head water protection and the protection of First Nations communities' drinking water.

- 5. Encourage and facilitate ongoing communication, relationship building, and information exchange between the Anishinabek Nation and MNR with respect to water programs and issues and improve the opportunity for First Nations to have early input to development of new government policies, proposals, programs and projects by:**
 - Developing an annual water conference/workshop to focus on water issues and provincial programs and initiative;
 - Endorsing and supporting the First Nations Water Network (electronic communications tool);
 - Supporting the quarterly water update newsletter for Anishinabek communities;
 - Providing training and education opportunities to First Nation communities with regards to project management (water treatment systems, water management planning, waterpower development, etc.)

One other recommendation to bring to AORMC:

Revisit the “Reaching Effective Consultation paper to clarify, update and improve the consultation guideline” with the Ontario Government with regards to policy development at all levels.

Follow Up

The Water Working Group finalized the report and developed an executive summary that was sent to the AORMC, conference participants, and communities. All presentations, questions and answers from the conference are posted on the website. The recommendations were presented to the AORMC for the direction of the next steps, which have been provided to the Water Working Group. If you like further information on the process, please contact the Water Resources Policy Analysis at the Union of Ontario Indians for more information.

ANISHINABEK TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & WATER POLICY REPORT

Introduction

First Nation people have Treaty and Aboriginal rights with respect to water as the Great Lakes and all inland waters have sustained the life of the Anishinabek since time immemorial. First Nation women have an inherent role to be the traditional keepers and spiritual protectors of this valuable resource, given that water has the responsibility to purify, cleanse and give life to Mother Earth and to all Creations.

From time immemorial, Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge has been passed down from generation-to-generation and it is important that this knowledge is used and shared with others. By understanding and teaching traditional knowledge, meaningful dialogue and positive impacts on policies, procedures, regulations and legislation can be achieved.

The Union of Ontario Indians has taken a leadership position on water resources. It is dedicated to provide support to its member First Nation communities on water issues ranging from water quality and quantity to water management and the management of other resources that are depend on water.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) plays a significant role in ensuring that Ontario’s water resources support the needs of Ontarians and a healthy natural environment now and into the future.

Background

Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council

The Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) have met with success in working together through developing and nurturing a partnership through the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC).

The goal of the AORMC is to jointly identify areas of concern, create opportunities, develop solutions, develop products for consultation, and to improve communication, dialogue and relations between the Anishinabek Nation and its 42 member First Nations and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The AORMC is comprised of a Council and functioning Working Groups to discuss lands and resources matters. The membership of the AORMC is divided evenly between Union of Ontario Indians representatives and MNR staff.

On October 3, 2007, the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC) approved that the Water Working Group (WWG) coordinate a Water Conference that would take place in the early months of 2008. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the UOI and the MNR (Water Resources Section) in December 2007 to fund and support the AORMC / WWG conference.

The Conference would promote relationship building and meet consultation objectives established by the parties. The funding would be administered by the UOI, where a full report would be created and submitted to the AORMC. This report would provide the AORMC with results, recommendations and next steps, so that the WWG will have directions to move forward.

Water Working Group of AORMC

Under the direction of the AORMC, the Water Working Group (WWG) is mandated to discuss water management issues, exchange information, facilitate a common understanding, and to find creative solutions to water related resource management issues mutually affecting both parties. Issues to date include the understanding of the importance of water for First Nations, communication, fostering relations, understanding impacts of policies, lack of participation with water planning processes, work with on-going management plans and capacity at the First Nation level. The WWG of the AORMC developed and managed the 'Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference'.

The Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference

The Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference was inspired by the need to explore together the many interrelationships with water. The Conference was to promote relationship building between the Anishinabek Nation and MNR, to find directions forward that would ultimately be meaningful for Anishinabek communities, and to develop a relationship with and the inclusion of traditional knowledge in water understanding and management that would influence water policy of government institutions and organizations.

Conference Objectives were to:

- Educate and raise awareness of Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council, Union of Ontario Indians, and Government initiatives and programs.
- Consolidate a listing of issues on the water landscape
- Collect data and feedback from participants to produce a report
- Define next steps/priorities for the Water Working Group to present to the RMC.

This Conference is intended to assist UOI and the AORMC in facilitating dialogue between government programs and Anishinabek First Nations about existing and proposed initiatives such as highlighting current Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, source water protection, water management planning, new site release policy, Anishinabek Women's Water Commission initiatives, and the Great Lakes Charter Annex Implementation Agreement.

The Conference will also benefit the AORMC in communicating priorities to the Water Working Group as to what future directions to take. Feedback through the Conference will assist the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in the refinement of existing water resources policies and programs and assist in developing new policies for implementation in the future. Union of Ontario Indians member First Nation communities will influence the direction being taken on water management policies in Ontario. This work will also help identify appropriate methods for establishing working relations between First Nations and the Ministries in order to successfully achieve mutual objectives.

The Deliverables from the Conference include:

- A synthesis report that would speak to the specific issues, recommended actions, proposals and input of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in relationship to water policy in Ontario.
- The production for each participant of a 'USB Data Key' of the presentations, background material, and supporting documents. In addition to relevant articles to the themes of the workshops and the Conference in general.
- Co-benefits of increased awareness of AORMC, UOI, Government initiatives and programs including the role of ATK in water policy to the participants of the Conference including 42 First Nation community representatives and to others through distribution of material produced through the Conference (Report and Data Keys).

The Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference was held on February 25 & 26, 2008 in Garden River First Nation. There were 95 registered participants which included representatives from 26 First Nation communities, Provincial Government Ministries, Non Governmental Organizations, Industry, Youth, Consultants, Water Plant Operators, and other Provincial Territorial Organizations.

The intention was that together these participants and leaders would share information, ask questions, and develop an understanding on how traditional knowledge can be incorporated into water policy.



Conference Participants

The proceedings of the Conference are reported as follows:

- An executive summary is presented
- Details of the events and keynote speakers address for Day 1 (February 25, 2008)
- Summary of each workshop presentation and panel discussion of Day 2 (February 26, 2008. Electronic copies of the presentations were made available to Conference participants, and they will be available on the UOI website: www.anishinabek.ca and data keys will be mailed to communities who were not able to attend.)
- Appendices will be included as follows:
 - Letter of Appreciation for Bob Goulais as conference facilitator
 - Agenda
 - All written questions from the audience with our answers as obtained separately from the experts – Q & A will also be posted on the UOI website.
 - Evaluation Results
- The report will be presented by the WWG to the AORMC and the WWG will therefore include their conclusions, recommendations, and next steps for future research and/or projects.

Proceedings of The Conference

DAY 1 - Summary of Events & Keynote Speakers Address

Opening Ceremonies

The Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Workshop began on February 25, 2008 at 6:00 pm. Facilitator Bob Goulais thanked everyone for their participation and provided a brief overview on why traditional knowledge and teachings are important to the Anishinabek people.

Opening ceremonies continued with a prayer by Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare. He thanked everyone for coming out to share and work together for water. First Nation Elders are dependent on water; water is everything for each and every one of us. He also spoke about the roles of women and water. Traditionally women are committed to protecting the water and by protecting the water, in turn, so are the birds, animals and fish.

Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare also expressed that the issues with and around water has received the attention across the country. He stated that, "We are here to work together and find a vision, as water is everything for each and every one of us and without the help of everyone we can not do it".

Keynote Speakers: Anishinabek Women's Water Commission

The Women's Water Commissioners, Josephine Mandamin and April Jones were the Keynote Speakers for the evening. The Women's Water Commission described that this is a difficult time for Anishinabek People and we need to watch over Mother Earth as she is in need of protection. The animals once spoke to the Anishinabek people, as we were once in union. The animals would give themselves to the people for food, clothes, tools, etc. Today, the animals are in need for protection. The Anishinabek people are losing the language and traditions, and last year at the Three Fires Confederacy, the Anishinabe Kwe committed to come together and re-establish the covenant of protection to Mother Earth. To re-establish this commitment, trees were planted in the four directions.¹

Josephine Mandamin spoke about the traditional roles of women and water. She stated that, "the Anishinabe Kwe (First Nation women) is the life giver of all life and she carries the water in her and shows that life is precious. We are all made of water and it does not matter what culture you come from. A prophecy from an elder was given and that one day a woman would walk around the Great Lakes". When Josephine started walking she said it was hard to imagine walking 20 kilometres a day and at the beginning mostly non-Anishinabek people walked with the water walkers.

Josephine gave a brief description on the Water Walkers journey-taking place over 5 years. The Women's Water Walk began in the spring of 2003, spring being chosen as it represents the natural re-growth of our natural habitat, as it is a in time for renewal, re-growth, and re-birth. Since then, different clans have come together at this time annually to raise the awareness that chemicals, vehicle emissions, motor boats, sewage disposal, agricultural pollution, leaking landfill sites, are polluting our clean and clear water and residential usage is taking a toll on our water quality.



**Anishinabek Women's Water Commission:
Josephine Mandamin, Chief Isadora
Bebamash, and April Jones ¹**

In 2003, the Water Walkers began their journey around Lake Superior. Josephine stated that, "Lake Superior is a gentle, kind and spiritual, but an unpredictable Lake as she can change her character in an instant. This lake is very powerful and in time, she has taken many lives. The walk around Lake Superior was spiritual and moving. Water on this lake is still drinkable".

In 2004, the Water Walkers took on Lake Michigan as they followed their ancestor's footsteps and it was found that their ancestors handed down messages from pictographs on the rocks. The Commissioners stated these pictographs have helped them understand the importance of water by confirming and solidifying much of our beliefs, teachings and the Way of Life. These pictographs are our connections to the people of the past and it made them think about what they were leaving for future generations.

¹ March 2007, Grand Council Chief Beaucage appointed the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission to engage a leadership role in raising the awareness of Great Lakes water and the impacts to its quality and quantity and provide direct advice to the Grand Council Chief and the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly, where the Commission is to share their traditional knowledge, teachings, and values to the Anishinabek Nation. The Women's Water Commission is a group of dedicated women from the Anishinabek Nation and includes the following individuals: Josephine Mandamin, Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation, Mary Deleary, Munsee-Delaware First Nation, April Jones, London, Ontario.

Grand Council Chief John Beaucage has recently appointed Chief Isadora Bebamash of M'Chigeeng First Nation to the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission as a Political Representative. The appointment of a political representative to the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission is a mean to strengthen the leadership role in the area of water policy in Ontario, and enhance the leadership role of the Women's Water Commission.

In 2006, the Water Walkers began their journey on Lake Ontario. The Commissioners stated that, "Lake Ontario was recognized as heavily polluted due to the industrialization around the lake, especially on the American side. Amongst the water they witnessed fish kills along the shorelines". The commissioners asked, "What will we leave the next generation?" Plastic is not good for us, garbage is in our water and commercialization is becoming of our water. Josephine stated if we do not take care of the water, we endanger the lives of our children.

In 2007, the Water Walkers began their journey on Lake Erie. Josephine expressed that this walk was difficult spiritually. Josephine announced that in March of 2008, the Water Walkers will begin walking around Lower Lake Michigan. This lake has many controversial issues with bottling companies, especially with Nestle. The Commissioners stated people need to understand the message that we are trying give. We need to work together to protect the water. Water is not only spiritual, but also political and we need to be active on how we work towards the future". The mission of the Women's Water Commission is to teach others that water is important and precious, and that walking the talk gives the message to the people. ²

The Women's Water Commissioner April Jones stated that, "a prophecy was given that a time will come when others will come looking for the knowledge of the Anishinabe on how to protect the water". April was grateful that all could come to the workshop and that she hopes that we all share our knowledge. April speaks from her family teachings, as she follows the Midewiwin's way of life, and does not speak for all Anishinabe. April teaches of ones relationship to land and water, and she expressed that the original Anishinabe had a name for each plant and animal.

The important thing is relationships of Anishinabe to the rest of creation. April stated that, "we are in a time in our history, as all peoples of the world have lost their connection with the earth and water. Today, not many people can pick berries, hunt or fish; the connection with the land is lost. She also expressed that her Grandmother refused to get running water in the house and fought this for a long time. Her Grandmother thought that when she could not go to the water, she would have lost the relationship with her relative, the water".

April explained that the Water Walkers are re-establishing our connection to water. She explained that it is easy to become overwhelmed and that we need to communicate with each other and reconnect the relationship to the water. Water has spirit and it will speak to us if we reconnect to it. People here all see water daily and they should all try to reconnect. April stated that water and the animals have no voice and they are waiting for Anishinabe to give the voice and to strengthen the relationship.

April stated that, "We once could take water from the lakes to drink and now we have boil water advisories. The answer is all about relationships. It has been documented that some of our communities do not have access to clean water, even though water treatment plants are in our communities. Water is an important and a real issue, and we need to start communicating with each other.

Key Messages

1. This is a time of environmental degradation and a time when people are loosing their connections with the water and the natural world.
2. The journey of walking around the Great Lakes, undertaken by Josephine Mandamin and the Women's Water Commission, since 2003 has:
 - Raised awareness of the many causes and prevalence of water pollution
 - Confirmed the unique features of each lake and the reality that the lakes have tremendous natural, geological and historical importance
 - Rekindled a bond with our ancestors who also lived near and valued the lakes'
3. All people have the responsibility to learn the issues, to contribute to solutions, and to work together to protect the water.

Bob Goulais indicated that Mary Deleary from the Women’s Water Commission was unable to speak at the conference. He thanked everyone for coming and asked two questions for the participants to think about for the next day.

1. How can Anishinabe be leaders in water policy?
2. What qualities are of value to us in terms of water issues?

DAY 2 – Summary of Workshop & Panel Discussions

On February 26th, 2008, the second day of the workshop commenced at 8:15 am. Day 2 began with an opening prayer by Grand Council Elder Gordon Waindubence, and a Traditional Water Ceremony performed by the Anishinabek Women’s Water Commission members Josephine Mandamin and April Jones. Welcoming remarks began with the Grand Council Chief, local Chiefs, and representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Opening Comments

John Beaucage, Grand Council Chief, Anishinabek Nation

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage gave an inspirational speech concerning the Great Lakes.

An overview of the speech is as follows:

The convergence of waters of the Great Lakes is a shared meeting place with spiritual significance. Anishinabek would talk about spirits in things around them and that life is in the water, air, and grass. People thought we were talking about gods or deities, but the Anishinabek were talking about the life and its balance. The Creator gave the Anishinabek people the responsibility to look after Mother Earth and all her elements.

Prophecies were given by our ancestors on how our resources will be spoiled over time. When the Europeans came, First Nations tried talking to them and told them that certain activities would be damaging. This balance is being destroyed. It has also been said by our ancestors that the Settlers would come to us for our teachings. Small steps need to be taken where we start to talk about traditional knowledge. This knowledge and the spiritual and metaphysical aspects are just as important as science.

Spirits are out of balance. It has been said that as long as water runs you can drink from it. Today, that is simply not true; we need to create the balance again. The Anishinabek Women’s Water Commission will provide us direction and provide us the teachings. Today, the Anishinabek Women’s Water Commission will add a political person to take aspects of concern to the Grand Council and to speak to water at the Chiefs of Ontario level, and report to the political confederacy. This person will be “Chief Isadora Bebamash”.

Key messages

1. The water of the Great Lakes has spiritual significance and the Anishinabek people have the responsibility to protect it.
2. The sharing and teaching of traditional knowledge will contribute to the protection of the water
3. The Anishinabek Women’s Water Commission will provide us teachings and direction, and through the new political appointment, they will have a voice to bring issues of concern to the Grand Council, Chiefs of Ontario, and the political confederacy.



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage and Josephine Mandamin, WWC



Eric Doidge, MNR

Eric Doidge, Regional Director, Northeast Region Ministry of Natural Resources

An overview of the speech is as follows:

Eric Doidge expressed that he was happy to be here and welcomed everyone to this Conference. He thanked Chief Lyle Sayers and his community for hosting this session and inviting everyone to Garden River First Nation to participate. The hospitality is most appreciated.

Eric stated that many of the participants have travelled some distance to make it to Garden River First Nation, and the Water Working Group of the AORMC has done a great job in pulling together an exciting agenda for the day on the important topic of water. He expressed that the AORMC continues to be an effective forum to share perspectives on management policies and programs managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Anishinabek Territory. This Conference is an opportunity to educate, raise awareness and facilitate dialogue around water policy and the incorporation of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into the work that we do. The Conference is also an opportunity for Anishinabek representatives from the communities, to share perspectives and identify water management issues to feed into the AORMC. The Council can work together to bring a constructive perspective on how these issues might be addressed in the short and long term to increase benefits to Aboriginal people.

Eric expressed that the sharing of perspectives, building trust, and working together to overcome these challenges surrounding the water agenda is important to building a strong long-term relationship. The Ontario government is committed to working with the Aboriginal communities to incorporate Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into our planning process. Eric stated that we are here to listen to you, to learn and to work together to build an information base of best available knowledge that includes both traditional aboriginal knowledge and scientific information.

Eric also expressed that he is sure that all participants will find this Conference will meet with your expectations. He is encouraged and he hopes the participants will take this opportunity to participate, share and network with the speakers and other Conference participants.

Key messages

1. The Conference is an opportunity to educate, raise awareness and facilitate dialogue around water policy and the incorporation of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.
2. This is an opportunity for Anishinabek representatives from the communities, to share perspectives and identify water management issues to feed into the AORMC.
3. The conference can bring a constructive perspective on how these issues might be addressed in the short and long term to increase benefits to Anishinabek people.
3. Sharing of perspectives, building trust, and working together to overcome these challenges surrounding the water agenda is important to building a strong long-term relationship.
4. Ontario government is committed to working with the Anishinabek communities to incorporate Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge into our planning process.

Chief Lyle Sayers, Garden River First Nation

Garden River First Nation Chief Lyle Sayers welcomed everyone to his community. He is glad to see that this workshop is taking place. He indicated the importance of water to the Anishinabek people and emphasized his concern regarding the state of the Great Lakes waters and how they are being managed. Chief Sayers stated that the St. Mary's River is polluted and that the governments are not taking action. He highlighted the value of Anishinabek ceremony, knowledge and spirituality. He takes the responsibility for water seriously.



Chief Lyle Sayers, Garden River First Nations

Chief Lyle Sayers, from Garden River First Nations welcomed Chief Dean Sayers of the neighbouring Batchewana First Nation and invited Chief Dean Sayers to address the Conference participants.



Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation

Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation

Chief Dean Sayers stated that Ontario does not have Batchewana's permission to manage water on Batchewana's behalf. Gargantua, the site of the Creator's rocking horse and frying pan was stolen, and we have taken back that village. Batchewana's people have responsibility for these sites.

Chief Dean Sayers also mentioned that last summer the Spirits on Lake Superior were fed and a wave of water came back and took the tobacco, and within two weeks, it rained for one week straight. The water levels on the lake came up 10-12 inches. He stated that the Visitors came for lands and copper. He asked the MNR to show him the treaty where Batchewana gave up sovereignty of the water and gave the right to MNR to manage the waters.

Workshop Topics and Panels

1st Workshop: The Anishinabek Women's Water Commission & Great Lakes Management

First Speaker: Josephine Mandamin, Women's Water Commission

Second Speaker: Rob Messervey, Manager, Water Resources Section, MNR

Josephine Mandamin, The Women's Water Commission

As the workshops commenced, the Women's Water Commissioner Josephine Mandamin spoke on how she has been called to speak on behalf of the water for Anishinabek. She is also part of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) for Species at Risk. She believes that if water were protected there would not be any species at risk because all species need water to live. Water is at risk. Water is alive, has feelings-it breathes, and speaks. Josephine refers to Dr. Emoto who stated that water speaks for itself. As part of the species at risk committee, she feels that the most important aspect is being neglected. Water is at the bottom of the ladder, when it should be at the top. It keeps humans and all species alive. In her work at the community level, she tries to say that water should be number one. First Nation tribes on the American side must come together with those from the Canadian Side. She sees the joining of hands all around the Great Lakes to protect this water.

Water should not be allowed to fall into foreign hands, it must be shared. There should be no silos, or separate bureaucracies, we must all unify to care for the water. To work with water in a circumspective way, we need to look at things as a whole. An example of a traditional teaching is, when we go to pick medicines, we do not go in the rain. This is when the plants are eating. As we do not like to be disturbed when we are eating, the plants do not like to be disturbed either. The plants must be respected. Josephine says that she does not wish to be consulted; she asks that the Non-Natives come and sit with them and learn their traditional ways. We need to look at the idea of sharing. Water is our medicine and there is a lot that needs to be taught. They would like to see changes made, and for all of us including governments to start working together".



Rob Messervey, MNR.

Rob Messervey, Manager, Water Resources Section, Lands and Water Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources

Great Lakes Water Management - (presentation available)

Rob Messervey, of the Ministry of Natural Resources gave a presentation on Great Lakes Water Management and the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement Implementation.

The Great Lakes basin is one hydrologic system shared by eight states and two provinces. Only 1% of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin are renewable. Inflow, diversions, and controls of each lake were reviewed. MNR's management objectives include the conservation of basin waters and the protection of human life from water related hazards. Great Lakes Management is a shared responsibility. MNR collaborates with US at the federal and state level, in Canada with both federal and provincial departments and ministries and with First Nations.

The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, 2005 (Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement) provides a framework for all parties to the Agreement to pass or modify laws, policies and programs to manage, protect and conserve the waters of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin. Included in the Agreement are provisions for First Nations consultation, input and scientific interaction and data exchange. The UOI and MNR are working collaboratively to implement the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement. Through the UOI Water Policy Analyst and the First Nations Water Network, information pertaining to the review of major water proposals (use, intra basin transfers) and Ontario's new Water Conservation and Efficiency Program will be exchanged. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge is key to the successful implementation of the Great Lakes Charter Annex Program. MNR and UOI will work with First Nation communities and the Women's Water Commission to understand and incorporate the importance of traditional values about water.

1st Workshop Discussion - Questions and Answers

Question: About ground water, How are we protecting this source of water?

Rob Messervey answered that groundwater is part of the water of the Great Lakes basin and as such is being protected through the implementation of the Great Lakes Charter Annex. As we get a better understanding and more knowledge of our groundwater we will be able to improve our decision-making and management about this resource.

Question: Traditional Ecological Knowledge - How can we use it without losing its meaning?

Josephine Mandamin answered that Traditional Knowledge is a way of life for the Anishinabek People and is handed down to us from our ancestors. Our knowledge is being misused, abused and misunderstood. Science does not respect traditional knowledge. We need to come together as one. Scientists need to sit down with us and to understand where we come from. We have intricate knowledge of medicine, animals, and flow. Anishinabek people live in the environment, know the elements, and know how to take care of ourselves. Many scientists have come to terms that traditional knowledge is as important as science and there needs to be a balance between science and traditional knowledge. We have to work together towards balance.

Question: What about the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement Implementation – and Consultation with First Nations?

Rob Messervey answered that the Agreement specifically addresses First Nations consultation and involvement. It prescribes a clear process for First Nations regional (Great Lakes basin wide) review of water use proposals by other states/provinces. It also seeks input from First Nations on regional issues (like better science and water conservation), and establishes ongoing scientific data exchange within the scope of the agreement.

Question: And what about other Political Territorial Organizations (PTOs) and First Nations in Ontario?

Rob Messervey answered that MNR is looking to reach out to other PTOs and First Nation communities in Ontario as it has done with UOI with respect to implementing the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement. MNR is looking for UOI Leadership and assistance in this process, and is willing to be flexible in establishing approaches to information sharing and dialogue which are appropriate for communities.

Question: How can we integrate traditional knowledge and ceremony with what we do everyday?

Josephine Mandamin responded that it is important to pass traditional knowledge on to our communities and others who want to know. It is important to “walk the walk” on a day-to-day and month-by-month basis and to lead by example”. She suggested that if we all went to live outside for 4 days and 4 nights we would surely appreciate the water. And if everyone did this, it would certainly lead to conservation and to the appreciation of “Mother Earth”.

2ND Workshop: Source Water Protection, Drinking Water and Protection of Headwaters

First Speaker: Kelvin Jamieson, Water Consultant

Second Speaker: Jake Noordhof, Source Protection Program Analyst, Ministry of Environment

Third Speaker: Jack Imhof, Aquatic Ecologist, Ministry of Natural Resources

Kelvin Jamieson, Northern Waterworks First Nation Operators Inc.

Water Plant Operators - (presentation available)

Kelvin Jamieson gave a presentation on water plant operations. The major issue that was identified was the certificate and training gap affecting how operators are taught how to run, manage and operate the water treatment plants in First Nation communities. Certification requirements levels need to be increased. Salaries make up 40 to 60 percent of operating budgets. He stated that operators must be highly skilled, they must be able to analyze water chemistry, must know electronics, and must be computer savvy and good trouble-shooters. Salaries for operators need to be increased to be in line the significant time investment required by operators.



Kelvin Jamieson, Northern Water Works First Nation Operations Inc.



Jake Imhof, MNR and Jack Noordhof, MOE

Jake Noordhof: Source Protection Program Analyst, MOE

Drinking Water Source Protection - (presentation available)

Jake Noordhof gave a presentation on Drinking Water Source Protection explaining that the Clean Water Act (2006) guides the planning process for drinking water source protection. First Nation communities that fall within a source protection region or area, which are generally conservation authority areas, have seats available on Source Protection Committees that guide the Source Protection Planning process to develop Source Protection Plans for that area or region.

For First Nations outside of Conservation Authority or Source Protection Authority areas or regions, there are several options for First Nation participation:

- First Nations can conduct source protection planning with technical support and guidance material from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) outside of the Clean Water Act;

- First Nations can participate in a source protection planning process led by a municipality through an agreement with MOE; or First Nations could conduct source protection planning using an alternative process to the one developed in the Clean Water Act.
- The Clean Water Act does not have jurisdiction on First Nation lands;
- Communities can be involved if they choose to be.

Jack Imhof, Aquatic Ecologist, MNR

Protection of Headwaters (The Life Blood of Our Watersheds) - (presentation available)



Jack Imhof, MNR

Jack Imhof gave a presentation on the Protection of Head Waters. Jack learned to know and appreciate the natural environment through experiences with and teachings from his grandfather.

Headwater is where streams begin. They are influenced by geology, climate, valley shape and site features that provide habitat and presence of vegetation. Healthy headwaters will have riparian vegetation zones, area for sedimentation to provide for water filtering and areas for recharge and discharge. They are considered “the capillary blood vessels” of a watershed. They enhance water quality and provide the source for healthier downstream flow.

All headwater areas including the parts with seasonal, intermittent and permanent flows need to be mitigated, conserved and protected.

“From small beginnings, great things come.”

2nd Workshop Discussion - Questions and Answers³

Question: Is MOE prepared to provide funding for source water protection outside Conservation Authorities?

Jake Noordhof answered that currently for initiatives outside of source protection areas; First Nations have access to source protection guidelines and related resources. With respect to funding for these initiatives, MOE would have to understand the level of interest and determine what process the First Nations community would like to follow.

Question: What about cases with private wells?

Jake Noordhof answered that where there is a cluster of six or more wells there are provisions in place to include these in source protection planning within a conservation authority/source protection area or region. The Ministry is committed to protecting drinking water sources.

Question: How does groundwater movement follow water boundaries?

Jack Imhof indicated that groundwater movement depends on whether the surface water is moving over shallow overburden or bedrock. On shallow gravels and sands the groundwater may follow watershed boundaries fairly close, whereas in areas that have bedrock ledges underneath the gravel and sand, the tilt of the bedrock may influence the direction of water flow”.

³ *Not all questions for this 2nd Panel were answered due to time constraints. The questions are included in the appendices at the back of the document

3rd Workshop: Water Management Planning and New Site Release Policy

First Speaker: Sandra Dosser, Northeast Region Renewable Energy Coordinator (MNR), and Jason Van Slack, Program Advisor & Community Development, (MNR)

Second Speaker: Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation (SRFN)



Chief Isadore Day, SRFN, Jason Van Slack, MNR, and Sandra Dosser, MNR

Jason Van Slack and Sandra Dosser, MNR Waterpower New Site Release Policy & Water Management Planning - (presentation available)

Both Jason Van Slack, and Sandra Dosser, from the Ministry of Natural Resources provided a presentation on Waterpower New Site Release Policy and Water Management Planning. This presentation provided the participants with water management planning and environmental assessment processes that need to be performed before constructing a waterpower facility that involve new sites. Some First Nations are involved in waterpower. It is important that the message of the duty to consult be brought forward early in the process. Building business-to-business relationships between potential proponents and First Nations is an important component in the development of new sites.

Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation

Water Management Planning and New Site Release Policy - (presentation available)

Chief Isadore Day gave a snapshot of a First Nation perspective on values, goals, and efforts being brought forward in the New Site Release Policy. This presentation was specific to Water Management Policy and how Serpent River First Nation is preparing to secure the opportunity for input and benefit in current relationships in waterpower projects.

Chief Day expressed that water is more important than money; water is renewable, but fragile. The technical capacity is not present in our communities and the Serpent River Council did not want to endorse the new site release policy until they had the technical capacity. The Serpent River Council did not endorse the permit to take water on their river system. Our community profile is 1180 members, 360 on reserve, and 11,000 hectares of land to manage. Ninety-five percent of the perimeter of reserve is water. Beaver Power/now Brookfield bought a plant on their river system. This became an issue. Much due diligence is required on part of the community in these matters. A framework policy is critical, along with partnerships, and collaboration.

Currently, there is a disconnection between industry and government. First Nations need resource benefit sharing. A question was raised regarding Rocky Island Lake – There was a change in plant ownership and no approved water management plan. Why did this happen? There was no response to this question as there was no background information.

3rd Workshop Discussion - Questions and Answers⁴

Question: The issue of youth participation had been raised?

A youth representative of the Union of Ontario Indians Youth Council, Arnold Yellowman, from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, was invited to speak on the topic to the Conference participants. Arnold stated, it is very important that our youth become familiar with our teachings, traditions, ethics and language. How do you learn these skills if you have not been in the environment?

The key is to get our youth involved by providing them with opportunities like this (i.e. meetings, forums, conference, etc); these messages will be gladly received. Fill up your car with your family to attend these types of events.



**Arnold Yellowman,
UOI Youth Council Representative**

Final Panel Discussion

Each of the members in this final panel were introduced and given several minutes to address the audience. Then the panel discussion followed a question and answer period format for all participants of the Conference. The questions and answers will be posted to the UOI website.

Josephine Mandamin

Anishinabek knowledge was passed to her from her grandmother. Elders were held with reverential respect. What they said was law. It is now her time to say things that need to be said. Anishinabek women have not been exercising their traditional roles. It has been put on the back burner. But now we are simmering. Young People are intelligent, gifted with knowledge and relied on. They should be treated with respect. Our knowledge should be passed on to our youth. There is a burning desire to speak. Things need to be said, need to be heard. Knowledge holders will share what they have.

Ian Smith, Director, Source Protection Programs Branch, Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

The *Clean Water Act* and Source Water Protection planning was amended to facilitate participation by First Nations. There is a seat for First Nations at the source water planning committee. It is possible to petition to include First Nation areas in source water planning areas.

Financial reporting? There are questions around the jurisdiction of Indian Affairs and Environment Canada with respect to sharing of costs for providing safe drinking water.

The MOE manages Great Lakes as a water body for a source of drinking water.

Chief Lyle Sayers

St. Mary's River should be cleaned of pollution, to its original condition. Then it should be maintained. Anishinabek have not given up rights to the Great Lakes.

Chief Isadore Day

Anishinabek law needs to be incorporated and the developed world needs to lower standards and consumption for sustainability. The Youth Environmental Leadership Forum will take place in the summer of 2008.

⁴ *Not all questions for this 2nd Panel were answered due to time constraints. The questions are included in the appendices at the back of the document

Rob Messervey

The Great Lakes Charter Annex Implementing Agreement bans diversions, promotes conservation and sets out consultation needs for First Nations and Tribes. Canada is the second largest water consumer only to be exceeded by the U.S. Aboriginal consumption is 80l/d compared with 340 l/d in Canada / person and 380 l/d in the U.S. We can learn from the elders, as ATK has its own value. We do not have to integrate this with science. We need to change our attitude and change may come in small steps. We can learn through the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission, First Nation Water Network, Water Walkers and Elders.

Sue Chiblow, Chiefs of Ontario

You want to know about consultation come and ask us. You have to recognize that not all First Nations are the same – There are four language / cultural groups. It was found that all waters need protection and that industry has damaged water. Treaty rights must be upheld and we must incorporate the Anishinabek laws. We need a stronger presence of youth and a senate of Elder's.

Sue reported on three recent gatherings of elders to discuss ATK. Highlights included:

- Emphasis on women's role as protectors of water
- The importance of sharing information
- Government is ignoring First Nation views on water
- First Nation treaty rights and natural laws need to be upheld. First Nations have not given up the right for water and water management
- Do not just look to incorporating ATK into policies and programs. First Nation ways need to be respected by First Nations and Government alike. We should live ATK. It is a way of life. Research and development is required to come up with models for implementing this.
- Our Elders are our scientists. Perhaps a council of Elders could be developed.
- A stronger presence of youth is required to hear our messages.



Paul Norris, OWPA

Presented by Paul Norris, Ontario Water Power Association (OWPA) - (presentation available)

Paul Norris indicated that his organization does not make policy and is not government. First Nations are increasingly becoming proponents in waterpower development and they need to incorporate ATK into their own developments. Capacity issues are a big challenge for First Nations. For the past four years, he has been part of a working group to support waterpower/First Nation relationships and capacity building in this industry. This year the target will be to continue dialogue. Paul recognized that it is important to have the leadership to continue with opportunities.

Earl Commanda, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Water Portfolio holder

Earl expressed that Federal Governments have a fiduciary role involving First Nations and that First Nation jurisdiction in water is not being respected. First Nations need to implement a framework on First Nation management of water systems and to involve the First Nation communities' government and traditional laws. First Nations needs to include federal legislation enabling First Nation input into initiatives involving water quality and quantity (joint federal and provincial agreements), capacity for First Nation water input and funds to support operators, sustainable operation and maintenance of water plants.



Earl Commanda, AFN



**Derrick Kamanga, Ontario First Nations
Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC)
First Nations Role in Source Protection- “Challenges, Barriers & Opportunities”
AND TOP 10 Ways Communities Can Save Water and Money**

Derrick Kamanga works with the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC). His presentation covered water treatment facilities, and how to find water quantity and quality that is good. He stated that water is a circle and at every point in the circle, capacity is needed. There must be research to show that whatever you do to the water, it will work.

Derrick Kamanga also discussed the top 10 ways Communities can save water and money which include:

1. Fix the leaks! Reduce Waste
2. Stop flushing the future
3. Make managing demand part of daily business
4. Link conservation to development
5. Price it right
6. Plan for sustainability
7. Look to the sky - Rainwater as the source
8. Close the urban water loop
9. Design communities for conservation
10. Educate, educate, educate.

Final Panel Discussion – Questions and Answers⁵

1. Question: How are youth to be engaged in water issues?

Josephine answered youth want to be involved. Josephine was attending a Youth Symposium in Timmins later this week. Youth can be reached through education. For example, to address issues with water treatment, encourage youth to go into the sciences.

Ian Smith answered youth can be engaged in water issues through involvement by Conservation Authorities and municipalities in annual water festivals.

Rob Messervey answered educating our youth is a critical theme. In developing Ontario’s Water Conservation and Efficiency program, messaging and tool kits will be developed for youth.

Chief Day answered that there is an Annual Youth Environmental Leadership Forum held by the North Shore Tribal Council.

Other answers supported the development of a tool kit for water conservation to promote youth symposiums.

2. Question: What does consultation mean to First Nations?

Sue Chiblow expressed that this must be a communication process, and it begins with each First Nation at the community level getting involved through capacity development. Government needs to talk to individual communities.

Earl Commanda expressed that every First Nation has said this is not consultation on the wastewater issue. The first step is to share the information. The duty to consult is the Crown’s responsibility.

⁵ Not all questions offered to these Panellists were answered due to time constraints. Questions can be found in the appendices.

Chief Lyle Sayers gave an example of a student who worked in Forestry, who attended a Lands for Life meeting. The student's name appeared in a document stating that Garden River First Nation had been consulted with, but the fact is that the student had said nothing. Government should state in their reports what First Nations have been consulted with.

Chief Day stated that rights pre-existed the treaties. Consultation does not occur until adequate resources are in place. Is there an ability to respond? First Nations also have a due diligence to consult with their own members.



Final Panellists

3. Question: What can we do in our own households and communities to minimize our impacts on the earth?

Sue Chiblow expressed that we should stop buying Javex and soaps with phosphates, stop wearing makeup with chemicals, and stop buying diamonds. She stated that all waters need protection and industry has damaged water. Treaty rights must be upheld, along with the Anishinabek natural laws. We need a stronger presence of youth.

Josephine Mandamin expressed that we need to look at how we use the water. Put the plug in the tub during a shower. Taste water in the morning. Stop using plastic it causes mould and decay. Gather water when it rains and stop leaving the water run while you are brushing your teeth. She also stated that youth is our answer and that women need to move forward and fulfill their role as protectors of Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge.

Ian Smith said that he lives and works in a glass and steel tower, but he uses public transit and that he is proud of his brown grass (water conservation).



Ian Smith, MOE Chief Lyle Sayers, GRFN and Chief Isadore Day, SRFN

Chief Lyle Sayers stated that he got the blue box system in his community and had 90% compliance, but then the government cancelled the program. He stated that he turns his car off and uses public transit where available. He also expressed that there is an Anishinabek Joint Commission and that there is an action plan to protect the water.

Chief Day stated that you have to raise your consciousness. What are you doing as an individual? Our Anishinabek Laws needs to be incorporated and the developed world needs to lower standards and consumption for sustainability.

Rob Messervey expressed that he tries to set an example by planting shade trees and shrubs. He also has a push lawn mower and he does not water his lawn. Rob also stated that he helps clean up rivers in his community – e.g. Jackson Creek.



**Paul Norris, OWPA Earl Commanda, AFN,
and Derrick Kamanga, OFNTSC**

Paul Norris stated that he uses a well to obtain his drinking water at home. His children take Ojibway classes and he stated that all children should be given this opportunity.

Earl Commanda indicated that some family homes are overcrowded and the Native standards for water are different from the Europeans whose per capita use is approximately 80 litres per day. He stated that he hauled buckets of water when he was young.

Derrick Kamanga stated that you could install a low flush toilet. He will forward information about water conservation (once received it will be posted through the First Nation Water Network and the Anishinabek website).

Bob Goulais stated that there are two methods of reconnecting with land and water.

1. Take the tobacco tie and make a connection by placing it into the water
2. Attend the Constitution and Governance workshop at the Dan Pine Healing Centre on February 27, 2008.

Final and Closing Remarks

Grand Council Chief John Beaucage stated that this was a good sharing of information. We want to leave this planet in good condition. We must think seven generations ahead. Chief Seattle once said, "When we do something to the web, we do it to ourselves."

Grand Council Elder Gordon Waindubence conducted the closing Prayer.

What we Heard, Conclusions, Recommendations, and Follow up

What We Heard At The Conference

1. Anishinabek women have a cultural responsibility for water and play a leadership role in water issues.
2. Great Lakes water management is a complex field requiring participation from all people (First Nations and tribes, scientific community, PTOs, etc.).
3. All parties need to work together, share perspectives, and to respect and trust each other.
4. Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge has value on its own; it does not need to be integrated with science but they both need to be considered when making decisions in water management.
5. First Nation People need to reconnect with traditional knowledge.
6. Source water protection is a serious concern for Aboriginal communities. First Nations are on the periphery of provincial Drinking Water Source Water Protection planning.
7. There is a lack of clarity regarding federal and provincial roles and responsibilities for headwater protection of First Nation communities' drinking water.
8. Operations and maintenance of drinking water systems in First Nations communities are under resourced.
9. First Nations are at a disadvantage in accessing new opportunities for waterpower development; need to increase capacity through policy and education.



**Grand Council Elder
Gordon Waindubence**

10. First Nations are affected by impacts to their source water without effective input into development proposals and without receiving benefits from the development.
11. Youth are interested in issues involving water; they need to be engaged through exposure to educational opportunities (conferences, courses, jobs, capacity building).
12. Anishinabek people want to be included when water issues are being discussed (policy development, proposal review, etc.).
13. Aboriginal people share a common ownership and responsibility for water; ATK is critical to sustainable management of water.
14. Respect for Anishinabek laws and reducing consumption through conservation of water resources will lead to sustainability.
15. Anishinabek Nation needs to assert their jurisdiction and rights over water.
16. Governments need to respect the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations.

Conclusions

Water is a vital resource for the survival of Mother Earth and it is important that the Anishinabe Kwe (Women) keep and reconnect with their traditional roles as water keepers. Anishinabek people believe that water keepers have the responsibility to defend and ensure the protection, availability, and purity of water for seven generations.

The pollution and degradation of watersheds and water bodies have had a severe impact on Anishinabek people's way of life. Anishinabek people have tremendous knowledge regarding the waters in their traditional areas and this knowledge can have positive impacts to legislation, policy and programs. Acknowledging that Traditional Knowledge is just as important as science is a step towards remedial actions and can play a vital role in development of legislation, policy and programs.

Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge can also be used to establish meaningful dialogue with the First Nations and its members with respect to governments.

The Conference has increased the understanding of policy, Traditional Knowledge, and industry's role for both First Nation communities and governments. For Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge to be incorporated into water policy in Ontario, governments at all levels will have to sit with First Nation communities and listen to what is being said.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are in priority sequence and were drafted by the Water Working Group in response to 'What we Heard' at the conference. We recommend that the AORMC:

- 1. Ensure the continued understanding of, respect for and adoption of Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and practices as they relate to water management by MNR and UOI by:**
 - Promoting the development of a policy regarding the internal and external use of Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge among Anishinabek communities
 - Inviting the Water Working Group and the Women's Water Commission to discuss ways to facilitate and incorporate ATK into government water policy development

2. Support and endorse the work of the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission (WWC), as they assume a leadership role in raising the awareness of Great Lakes Basin waters and impacts to its quality and quantity and share their traditional knowledge and teachings about water by:

- Appointing a WWC commissioner to the AORMC table;
- Encouraging teachings by the WWC in each of the 4 Anishinabek Regions each year to communities, government officials and youth;
- Through the WWC, promoting education, awareness and respect of Women's leadership role with respect to water within the Anishinabek Nation and the Ontario Government;
- Coordinating the involvement of the WWC with the Anishinabek Elder's Council.

3. Promote increased opportunities for First Nations in water power developments and encourage growth in capacity so that communities can be successful in accessing opportunities by:

- Requesting a review of the Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy to increase opportunities in water power development for First Nations;
- Assisting with the development of tools for First Nations that will enable them to participate in water power projects (e.g. inventory of funding sources available, training opportunities, partnerships) ;

4. Facilitate and support Anishinabek communities' capacity to understand and take ownership of headwater protection, drinking water source protection and management of drinking water systems by:

- Promoting the development of protocols by communities on development within headwater areas;
- Exploring options to clarify the Federal and Provincial government's roles and responsibilities for head water protection and the protection of First Nations communities' drinking water.

5. Encourage and facilitate ongoing communication, relationship building, and information exchange between the Anishinabek Nation and MNR with respect to water programs and issues and improve the opportunity for First Nations to have early input to development of new government policies, proposals, programs and projects by:

- Developing an annual water conference/workshop to focus on water issues and provincial programs and initiative;
- Endorsing and supporting the First Nations Water Network (electronic communications tool);
- Supporting the quarterly water update newsletter for Anishinabek communities;
- Providing training and education opportunities to First Nation communities with regards to project management (water treatment systems, water management planning, waterpower development, etc.)

One other recommendation to bring to AORMC council:

Revisit the "Reaching Effective Consultation and Guidelines to clarify, update and improve the consultation guideline" with the Ontario government with regards to policy development at all levels.

Follow up

The Water Working Group finalized the report and developed an executive summary that was sent to the AORMC, conference participants, and communities. All presentations, questions, and answers from the conference are posted on the website. The recommendations were presented to the AORMC for the direction of the next steps, which have been provided to the Water Working Group. If you like further information on the process, please contact the Water Resources Policy Analysis at the Union of Ontario Indians for more information.

AORMC Water Working Group Members

Arnold May, UOI Co-Chair

Charles Faust, MNR Co-Chair

Donna Palermo, MNR

Libby Bobiwash, UOI

Karen Abrahams, MNR

Robert Assinewe, UOI

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LETTER OF RECOGNITION



13 May 2008

Mr. Bob Goulais
Union of Ontario Indians
Head Office: Nipissing First Nation
P.O. Box 711
North Bay, ON
P1B 8J8

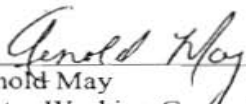
Dear Bob:

With deep appreciation and heart-felt thanks on behalf of the Water Working Group for your excellent facilitation of the Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge & Water Policy Forum held in Garden River on February 25 & 26, 2008.

The Water Working group would like to acknowledge your invaluable assistance in accepting to be facilitator when Maurice Switzer was unable to fulfill his role as facilitator.

Your knowledge, skills and ability to wrap it all together was most appreciated.

Chi-Miigwetch,



Arnold May
Water Working Group Co Chair



Charles Faust
Water Working Group Co Chair

c.c Grand Council Chief John Beaucage

Water Working Group

UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

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Highlight

The Grand Council Chief, John Beaucage appointed Chief Isadora Bebamash of M'Chigeeng First Nation to the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission as a Political Representative. The appointment of a political representative to the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission will strengthen the leadership role in the area of water policy in Ontario, and to enhance the leadership role of the Women's Water Commission.

Chief Isadora Bebamash thanked Josephine for bringing the awareness to the importance of water to the forefront and raising the profile of women's responsibility to care for the water.

FIRST NATIONS APPOINT NEW WOMEN'S WATER COMMISSIONER

GARDEN RIVER (February 26, 2008) – Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage has announced the appointment of a political representative to the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission.

"I'm pleased that Chief Isadora Bebamash has accepted this appointment as Commissioner. She is committed to fulfilling her role as a woman and as a leader, to speak for and protect the water," said Grand Council Chief Beaucage.

Isadora Bebamash is a first term Chief for M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. Previously she has sat as a Band Councillor and on the First Nation's Economic Development Commission.

"I am excited to be a part of the Women's Water Commission. It will be a tremendous honour to work with the other Commissioners," said Chief Bebamash.

"Our Women have many teachings that can be shared with the people," she said.

"The appointment of a political representative to the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission is meant to strengthen our leadership role in the area of water policy in Ontario, and enhance the leadership role of the Women's Water Commission itself," said the Grand Council Chief.

Grand Council Chief Beaucage, Chief Bebamash and the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission will be attending an Anishinabek Nation water policy forum today in Garden River First Nation discussing policy options to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of water, and the Great Lakes basin eco-system.

We are not simply stakeholders," said Grand Council Chief Beaucage. "Along with Ontario we are stewards of the Great Lakes, and we will work to entrench that role within the Great Lakes Charter Annex implementation process in Ontario."

The foundation of First Nations water policy is the traditional role of the Women in caring for the water. The Anishinabek Women's Water Commission will provide direct advice to the Grand Council Chief and the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Grand Council Chief Beaucage is working to set up a meeting involving the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission and The Hon. Donna Cansfield, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources.

The Anishinabek Nation established the Union of Ontario Indians as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political advocate for 42 member First Nations across Ontario. The Union of Ontario Indians is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact.

THE AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE



Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy

GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION

48 SYRETTE LAKE ROAD

GARDEN RIVER EDUCATION/RECREATION CENTRE

FEBRUARY 25TH AND 26TH, 2008

A Presentation of Anishinabek/Ontario Resource Management Council
Water Working Group

Day 1: Evening Keynote Speaker and Social

6:00-7:00 pm	Registration Meet and Greet Display Booths Local Craftspeople Light Snacks	Facilitator: Maurice Switzer, Union of Ontario Indians
7:00-9:00 pm	Keynote Speaker followed by Discussion	Women's Water Commission Josephine Mandamin, Mary Deleary and April Jones <i>The Spirit of Water and the Role of Women</i>

Day 2: Opening Ceremonies

8:15-8:20 am	Opening Prayer	Arlene Barry, Elder, Garden River First Nation, Gordon Waindubence, Grand Council Elder
8:20-8:45 am	Traditional Water Ceremony	Women's Water Commissioners Josephine Mandamin, Mary Deleary and April Jones
8:45-9:00 am	Opening Comments	Chief Lyle Sayers, GRFN, Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, UOI and Eric Doidge, Regional Director, MNR



Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy

Day 2: Workshops and Panel Discussion

9:00-10:20 am	First Workshop: <i>The UOI Women's Water Commission and Great Lakes Water Management</i>	First Speaker: Josephine Mandamin, Women's Water Commission Second Speaker: Rob Messervey, MNR
10:20-10:30 am	Health Break	Refreshments provided
10:30-11:50 am	Second Workshop: <i>Source Water Protection, Drinking Water and Protection of Headwaters</i>	First Speaker: Kelvin Jamieson, Water Consultant Second Speaker: Sue Miller, NDCA and Jake Noordhof, MOE Third Speaker: Jack Imhof (MNR)
11:50-1:00 pm	Lunch	Provided
1:00- 2:20 pm	Third Workshop: <i>Water Management Planning and New Site Release Policy</i>	First Speaker: Sandra Dossier (MNR) and Jason Van Slack (MNR) Second Speaker: Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation
2:20-2:30 pm	Health Break	Refreshments provided
2:30- 4:00 pm	Panel Discussion	Josephine Mandamin (WWC) Ian Smith (MOE) Chief Isadore Day (SRFN) Rob Messervey (MNR) Sue Chiblow (COO) Paul Norris (OWA) Earl Commanda (AFN) (INAC) Derrick Kamanga (OFNTSC) Cathy Abramson (AJC)
4:00-4:30 pm	Closing Prayer, Final Remarks and Evaluation	Elders and Maurice Switzer UOI

CONFERENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Conference February 25 & 26, 2008, Garden River First Nation Questions and Answers

The following questions were posed by conference participants. They were written and submitted to conference organizers. Time did not allow the questions to be asked to panelists during the conference. Subsequently, Water Working Group members undertook to provide the following answers to all questions submitted.

Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement Implementation

1. What is the total number of litres taken annually from the Great Lakes?

Each of the jurisdictions in the Great Lakes Basin reports its water use annually to the Great Lakes Commission, which reports the total amount of water taken from the Great Lakes each year. Further water use reporting requirements will be put in place under the Agreement. In the most recent year of data available, 2004, about 1,175 trillion litres of water was taken from the Great Lakes. However, most of this water is used for short-term purposes (e.g., cooling, power production, etc.), and is returned immediately after use. 2,628 trillion litres of water was removed from the Great Lakes and not returned – about 1% of the amount of water renewed annually in the Great Lakes, and 0.01% of the water in the Great Lakes.

2. With regards to notification and consultation, is there a process on how the notifications will take place?

The Agreement sets out a general process for First Nations and Tribes consultation in regional review of significant water proposals, with specific procedures to be established. The Regional Body is responsible for notifying First Nations or Tribes within the basin of a proposal and providing opportunity for comment, informing and inviting First Nations and Tribes to public meetings, forwarding all comments to the jurisdiction where the proposal takes place, and considering the comments before issuing a declaration of its findings. The Regional Body will also work to establish mechanisms to facilitate dialogue with First Nations and Tribes on other aspects of the Agreement. In Ontario, work is being done to develop specific procedures for engagement of First Nations under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Union of Ontario Indians.

3. How does the Charter Annex Agreement deal with other First Nation communities that are not represented by the Union of Ontario Indians?

The government of Ontario is committed to engaging all First Nations in the Basin. Just over one year into the Memorandum of Understanding with the Union of Ontario Indians, Ontario is currently working with the Union of Ontario Indians to provide leadership in engaging other First Nations communities and political territorial organizations. The Agreement calls for the engagement of and provides opportunities for input by all First Nations and Tribes in the Great Lakes Basin. A basin-wide organization, the United Indian Nations of the Great Lakes, has been formed by First Nations organizations to coordinate the activities of First Nations and Tribes as they relate to the Agreement.

4. Is the government going to study the water issues to death?

Science and information are important aspects of the Agreement which support decision-making on water uses, and the government of Ontario will continue to conduct research and collect information about the Great Lakes in accordance with the Agreement. Ongoing study and collection of information allows us to better understand the impacts of our activities on water resources, and allows us to adapt the way we manage those resources if necessary to ensure their ongoing protection for future generations. However, the Agreement incorporates the precautionary principle and

states that lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason to postpone measures to protect Basin waters. For this reason the Agreement commits the Great Lakes provinces to take action to regulate water uses, implement conservation programs, and ban diversions.

5. How does the groundwater in the Great Lakes Basin feed the five Great Lakes? And does the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement control management of that groundwater?

In the Great Lakes region, groundwater discharge makes up much of the base flow to the lakes. Some precipitation runs across the surface to the Great Lakes, while some infiltrates into the ground and recharges groundwater. The groundwater in turn flows to and recharges the Great Lakes. Because it is delayed with respect to precipitation events compared to surface runoff, groundwater recharge is not as liable to fluctuate with weather and is the most stable component of flow to the Great Lakes. The Agreement applies to all waters within the Great Lakes basin, including groundwater and tributary rivers and lakes that feed the Great Lakes. It commits states and provinces to work toward improving our understanding of the role of groundwater in basin water resources management and the individual and cumulative impacts of groundwater withdrawals.

6. Proposed Shell refinery – will Shell have to comply with an environmental assessment process and to what extent? Will Shell also have to meet the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement requirements for the use of water?

Shell Canada has announced that it will not proceed with plans to build a new refinery in the Sarnia area. However, had the project proceeded, it would have had to comply with the environmental assessment process under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Shell Canada would also have to acquire a permit for water use and comply with requirements of the Agreement and the Ministry of the Environment's Permit to Take Water program.

7. Who determines the water levels when there is a huge demand? What happened in Rocky Island Lake?

From MNR perspective a number of factors contributed to the incident in 2002 at Rocky Island Lake where the lake level was drawn down below its normal summer levels by the hydroelectric facility. Because the water taking had been established in 1950, it was grandfathered under the Ontario Water Resources Act and did not require a Permit To Take Water. The current owners of the facility have since applied for a permit. A high electricity demand in the summer of 2002 (as peak demand shifted from winter months to summer months), combined with the deregulation of the electricity market, led to higher water takings to increase power generation. This increased water taking was legal according to the constraints applied to the lake, which is a man-made reservoir. In previous years, the facility had drawn down the reservoir between January and March, which matched higher winter electricity demand and, because it would be at a low point as the spring melt approached, helped capture spring runoff to mitigate flooding in the area. Water management planning guidelines had only recently been introduced, and no water management plan existed for the Mississagi River system. When reports of the incident were received, the Ministry of Natural Resources conducted field work to ascertain the direct impacts, and a low water response team made up of area municipalities, First Nations, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the tourism sector was convened. This team discussed the options available to address the issue and came up with a voluntary agreement with the operator to maintain summer water levels above a certain minimum level. The facility has since maintained levels in accordance with this agreement. Waterways with hydroelectric facilities which are under provincial jurisdiction now require Water Management Plans, which are created to address similar issues and ensure that decisions aren't solely driven by economic concerns or by the requirements of one user to the exclusion of others. These define acceptable water levels and flows and balance the needs of the various users and interests on the system, including ecological needs. The Water Management Plan for the Mississagi River system is now nearing completion.

8. Do Great Lakes managers know the current water volume that is being taken from the Great Lakes? And is there a sustainable level of water taking established for each individual lake?

The volume of water taken in each jurisdiction in the Great Lakes, including Ontario, is reported annually to the Great Lakes Commission, which publishes the data and calculates total amounts removed from the Basin as well as the amount of water removed from each Great Lake watershed. Approximately 1% of the volume of the Great Lakes is

renewed each year, but there is no established sustainable level of water taking for each individual lake. However, the Agreement commits jurisdictions to further study to better understand impacts of water takings on the lakes; research and information collection is ongoing. In 2004, the amount of water used in the Great Lakes Basin was about 1% of the amount renewed annually, or 0.01% of the total volume of the lakes. Under the Agreement, a review of water management programs and assessment of any cumulative impacts will be done periodically, which will ensure that takings are sustainable and allow programs to be adapted if necessary.

9. Is there a difference in the way Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge is applied to a policy decision? (e.g. a ban on diversions) and how does it help inform and protect at the local level? (e.g. remedial action plan)

First Nations input was very important in the negotiation of the Agreement and influenced the final decision to ban diversions out of the Great Lakes Basin. Anishinabek and other First Nations' Traditional Knowledge can be applied to local level education to promote an enhanced understanding and appreciation of the natural world and its resources among Ontarians. The influence of traditional knowledge on broad province-wide policies may also have a significant effect at the local level as well. ATK can also play an important role in identifying and assessing individual and cumulative impacts of water management decisions at the local scale.

10. What happened to the theory "Every ounce of water on Earth is still here, unless you send it to outer space"?

While it is true that the amount of water in the world remains relatively constant, water exists in many different forms, some of which are not accessible to humans, animals, and ecosystems. Water in the atmosphere, the ocean, or frozen in glaciers is not readily available for use, and when water is removed from surface or groundwater and transformed to other states, it may take a long time to replenish. Only about 1% of the volume of the Great Lakes is renewed each year by rain and runoff from the surrounding land. Underground aquifers also generally recharge very slowly, and often the rate of removal of water from underground aquifers exceeds the rate of recharge.

11. With 43 million people in the Great Lakes Basin, how can consultation be meaningful? Can it work?

The Ministry of Natural Resources works to ensure that consultation is broad and open, encompassing as many representative groups and opinions as possible. Although it isn't possible to consult with all 43 million Basin residents, all feedback received is meaningful and represents valid viewpoints likely held by others in the Basin as well.

12. How do you turn research into action to protect the Great Lakes Basin?

Under the Agreement, the jurisdictions commit to provide leadership for the development of a collaborative science strategy which will guide the development of science and information and its application. Science and information are used to guide decision making on water uses; for example, to predict whether proposed water withdrawals will have significant impacts on the Basin or whether they will transfer water from one watershed to another. Research and innovation will also support water conservation and efficiency efforts via advances in technology, and help identify potential cumulative impacts of water withdrawals and predict and mitigate the effects of climate change.

13. Does the Great Lakes Annex Agreement deal with ballast water exchange with freighter ships?

The Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement does not deal with ballast water exchange. However, other controls on ballast water are now in place. In 2006, Transport Canada passed the Ballast Water Control and Management Regulations to replace voluntary guidelines that had been in place since 1989. These regulations require all ships to follow ballast water management plans that help protect the Great Lakes from new invasions. Vessels fully loaded with cargo as well as vessels carrying no ballast on board are required to conduct ballast water exchange, or tank flushing, in sea water to reduce the potential for any freshwater organisms in the tanks to survive. This method has been shown to be highly effective in preventing the introduction of invasive species. In 2008, the U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation introduced similar measures for ocean-going ships entering the U.S. sector of the St. Lawrence seaway.

Although the Agreement does not deal with ballast water exchange, it does help to prevent the spread of invasive species by requiring water to be returned to the same Lake watershed it came from after use.

14. What happens to the Great Lakes Agreement when 3 states will not sign the Agreement as it pertains to 19 million L/day?

All of the states and provinces have signed the Agreement, and now the companion U.S. Compact has been passed by all eight of the Great Lakes states, consented to by Congress, and signed by President Bush to become law.

15. How does MNR plan to monitor the Great Lakes? And does MNR see non-governmental organizations and First Nation communities playing a role?

Great Lake levels impact ecosystem health and biodiversity, fisheries, navigation, hydroelectric generation, recreational boating, water supply for municipal, industrial and domestic use, and shoreline flooding and erosion. Great Lake levels may be influenced by factors, including evaporation, precipitation rates, glacial rebounding, the regulation of outflows, dredging and erosion and climate change. The Ministry of Natural Resources is working to ensure we have a clear scientific understanding of the causes of changes in lake levels.

The Ministry of Natural Resources' Surface Water Monitoring Centre operates an enhanced network of stations across the province to monitor climatological conditions, stream flow and stream and lake level information on a real-time basis. This enables the provincial government together with the other level of governments, agencies and partners to assess the state of water levels on the Great Lakes and contributing watersheds. This information is vital to inform and provide notices and advisories to partners on current lake and watershed conditions (e.g. flooding and low flow conditions). It is also integral as input to current studies such as the international Joint Commission's Upper Great Lakes study and the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Regulation Plan.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is undertaking a project to further enhance this existing network of monitoring stations – called the Hydrometric Network Design and Enhancement Project, with a concerted effort to engage all parties and make sure they participate in the final design of the network. There are numerous reasons why First Nations are important to this exercise, and their input will be absolutely vital to the process. First Nations can identify the specific needs of First Nation communities to address issues related to flood, drought and development. But also, First Nations can help when it comes to putting stations on the ground, especially when it comes to choosing sites and ensuring equipment and stations do not interfere with traditional uses of the site. First Nations can participate in the advisory committee which is assessing the stream gauge and associated climate data needs in Ontario.

16. How do you plan on engaging youth in the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement?

Youth, as the leaders of tomorrow, will be key to ensuring the continued protection of the Great Lakes. First Nations youth can be engaged through the First Nations Water Network, which will allow communities to contribute to policy development in Ontario. Youth can also participate in various initiatives being organized as the Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement is implemented. Examples include water policy conferences, water ceremonies and activities and teachings initiated by the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission. Youth focused programs in which First Nations youth can take part will be developed as part of the implementation of the Ontario Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy.

Source Water Protection/ Drinking Water Source Protection and MOE Issues/ Conservation Authorities/Groundwater

17. If a First Nation is in agreement with the Source Water Protection Plan, does the First Nation have to have a water distribution system? What if a First Nation has private wells?

There is opportunity for First Nations with reserves located within source protection areas to voluntarily become involved in the provincial drinking water source protection planning process. These opportunities include participating as a member of a source protection committee, participating in the review and comment of the terms of reference, assessment report, and source protection plan developed for a source protection area. Furthermore, a First Nation with a reserve located within a source protection area can make a request to the Minister of the Environment (the Minister), through a Band Council Resolution, to include their drinking water system in the provincial drinking water source protection planning process.

Under the *Clean Water Act* and its regulations (e.g. Ontario Regulation 286/07), municipalities are prohibited from including a non-municipal drinking water system (e.g. private well) that serves one private residence in the provincial planning process, unless it meets certain conditions listed under Ontario Regulation 286/07 (e.g. it is in a cluster of six or more wells or intakes). Although the *Clean Water Act* and its regulations have not been applied to First Nations' reserves, the Ministry recommends that the types of First Nations' drinking water systems requested for inclusion in the provincial process be consistent with the types of drinking water systems permitted to be included by Municipalities (e.g. communal drinking water systems, clusters of six or more wells), as outlined in regulation.

18. Is MOE prepared to pay for source water protection planning within communities?

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is currently examining how the technical and planning work for First Nations' drinking water systems may be funded, should a First Nation community's drinking water system be included in the provincial planning process.

19. Who causes the most pollution of the Great Lakes?

There are many different types of pollution, and amounts emitted vary often, there is no definitive answer on who causes the most pollution of the lakes. Ontario is currently working to reduce pollution of the Great Lakes by creating a toxics reduction strategy; more information can be found at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/toxics/index.php>. The Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy is another ongoing initiative which involves the United States as well, and a June 2008 update can be found at - http://binational.net/bns/2008/200GLBTSupd_en.pdf

20. Can First Nations develop a conservation authority within their watershed area in Northern Ontario?

Conservation Authorities are established through provincial legislation, the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which allows neighbouring municipalities within a common watershed area to voluntarily enter into partnership with the Province to form a Conservation Authority (CA) for resource management work. The *Conservation Authorities Act* is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources on behalf of the Province. The Conservation Authority is a legally incorporated organization with a Board and staff. The composition of the Conservation Authorities Board is determined through a formula in the Act according to population size of each participating municipality; Board members are appointed by these municipalities, 75% of which are elected municipal councilors. Provincially mandated activities of the CA and which are very specific (such as flood and erosion control, ice management) are agreed upon and funded by the province together with municipalities in a matched funding arrangement.

Therefore Conservation Authorities cannot be created in a watershed under the current *Conservation Authorities Act* without there also being incorporated municipalities.

A non-governmental organization (NGO) with similar structure and mandate to a conservation authority could be created, but many aspects of CAs could not be transferred to an NGO.

A Source Protection Authority however is a separate and distinct entity from a Conservation Authority and has been constructed under different provincial legislation, the *Clean Water Act* and given very specific powers and duties for the purposes of the *Clean Water Act* and Drinking Water Source Protection planning. The Source Protection Authority is not legally incorporated, has limited organizational power, a committee-like body. Existing organizations are assuming the role of Source Protection Authorities for the Drinking Water Source Protection planning process in addition to their regular work. Where Conservation Authorities exist, the CA assumes the responsibilities outlined under the *Clean Water Act* for the Source Protection Authority. There is also a municipal government acting as a Source Protection Authority and an Environmental Non-Government Organization also undertaking the job of a Source Protection Authority for the DWSP planning process.

The Source Protection Authority work includes laying the groundwork for the new Drinking Water Source Protection planning process through consultation, communication with local stakeholder groups and sectors to build awareness and knowledge of DWSP and the Source Protection Committee roles and responsibilities.

- a. Engages municipalities in the planning process.
- b. Creates the Source Protection Committees, (ensuring the selection process is in accordance of the Act and its regulations, outlines job descriptions, determine the compensation for the chair and committee positions, produce a letter to stakeholders explaining the process and requesting nominations, produce a public advertisement with details on the website, short-list candidates for interviews and conduct interviews).
- c. Supports the Committee in its duties.
- d. Provides technical and scientific support to the Committee and municipalities as required
- e. Conducts technical work that will be used in the Assessment Report that is part of the Planning process.
- f. In the Source Protection Plan Implementation, monitors and reports on the progress in implementing the Source Protection Plan, and in amending the Source Protection Plan.

This work is distinct and specific from that of a Conservation Authority.

21. What way can source water protection integrate traditional knowledge? Or how can traditional knowledge be integrated into the source water protection plan?

One way in which ATK could be incorporated into source water protection or other examples of water resource management and planning is by gathering and documenting perhaps through mapping local traditional knowledge related to water and characteristics or changes to the water such as water quality and quantity.

UOI and MNR will be working together to provide funding and guidance to a community to enable mapping and characterization of local water resources in part based on local community knowledge and potentially traditional knowledge. Long-term monitoring may be able to identify trends and changes to the watershed such as those due to climate change.

22. How closely does ground water follow watershed boundaries?

Generally in locations on the Canadian Shield the surface water and groundwater boundaries are assumed to be about the same. As you move south off of the Canadian Shield the difference between the two boundaries is more variable. The geology of the region (amount and type of material over the groundwater) also plays a role in the difference between the two boundaries. On a regional or provincial level the relative difference between the two boundaries is likely not very large (<100km) in comparison to some of the vast aquifer systems in the central United States. On a local sub-watershed scale there are likely minor variations (<10km) throughout the province. The Ontario Geological Survey can provide more information on groundwater divides.

23. Can you please provide a list of the most needed positions within the governments and First Nations to help direct youth when they are making career decisions?

There are many different job possibilities for those entering the public service through the Post Secondary Recruitment (PSR) program. Disciplines such as business and public administration, sociology, economics, accounting and mathematics are some of the fields of study that are most commonly sought in the campaign career choices usually advertised in the fall. The disciplines for the career choices vary from year to year, depending on the needs of government organizations.

There may not be openings for employment in each discipline every year, as the staffing requirements of government organizations change, but you may apply during the Fall Campaign to the PSR General Tested Inventory that is available to government organizations year-round.

Every Ontario Provincial Government Ministry has information on youth employment programs on their websites and youth can also refer to the Government of Ontario Jobs website (<http://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/Jobs.aspx>). In the

Ministry of Natural Resources, there is currently a high demand for water resource engineers with specialties in either surface water hydrology or groundwater hydrogeology. Conservation Authorities and consulting companies are often looking for these types of skills as well.

Ontario has an internship program for work in the public service, as well as various programs within the ministries. The Ministry of Natural Resources, for example, has a summer experience program for students offering a wide variety of 7-week positions, as well as an internship program which recruits recent graduates (within 2 years) for 10-month contracts. More information about these programs can be found at: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Youth>

Some water-related job titles in MNR youth employment programs are:

SUMMER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (SEP)

- Assistant Fish Culture Technician
- Assistant Fisheries Biologist
- Assistant Fisheries Technician
- Assistant Water Resources Technician
- Assistant Water Technician
- Fish and Wildlife Assistant
- Fish and Wildlife Policy Assistant
- Wetlands Information Management Assistant
- Wetlands Planning and Development Assistant
- Watershed Stewardship Technician Assistant

RANGER PROGRAM

- Ontario Ranger Program
- Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program
- Anishinabek Stewardship Ranger Program

MNR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (examples include)

- Resource Manager 1 (Lands and Waters Branch – Water Resources)
- Biologist 1 (Fish and Wildlife -- Fisheries)
- Biologist 1 (Fish and Wildlife – Biodiversity)
- Biologist 1 (Great Lakes – COA Project)
- Forester 1
- Planner 1

First Nation organizations may have jobs posted online (e.g., at www.anishinabek.ca, www.chiefs-of-ontario.org, www.nan.on.ca, www.gct3.net, www.afn.ca, etc.). Individual First Nations have an employment training unit that specialize in training and employment that can provide youth with decision-making processes with regards to their career choices.

Skills in communication, education, social work, political studies, business and finance are often needed. Other resources include the Human Resources Cooperation (<http://www.darehr.com/index.html>), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/emp/index-eng.asp>) and Human Resources Development Canada (<http://www.youth.gc.ca/yoaux.jsp?lang=en&flash=1&ta=1&auxpageid=1090>).

24. Is it possible to clean personal wells once they are contaminated?

It may be possible to clean personal or private wells once they are contaminated, depending what they are contaminated with. Only test results that are carried out by an accredited laboratory can tell for sure. Bacterial contamination can usually be fixed by one of a variety of treatment methods, but may point to problems with the construction or location of the well.

You can find more information at the following websites: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/watersafe/watersafe_disinfection.htmlhttp://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/watersafe/watersafe_wellknow.html#1

A site on how to get to know your well: <http://www.healthunit.org/water/infosheet/aquainted.htm>

25. What can we do in our households and communities to minimize our impacts on the groundwater?

There are two sides to potential impacts on groundwater: water quality and water quantity. Water quality will be affected by the use of products or practices that release harmful substances into the environment. Groundwater quantity is affected whenever we use water.

The best thing to do is adopt pollution prevention and conservation practices in order to protect important groundwater supplies from being contaminated or depleted in the first place. For example, you can use household products (cleaners, personal hygiene products, etc.) that don't contain harmful chemicals or phosphates, that are plant-based and that biodegrade, and ensure that hazardous materials like paint and motor oil are disposed of properly. The quantity of groundwater is easy: if we reduce the amount of water we use, our water supply will last longer. You can protect groundwater on a local level in your community by conserving water – fixing dripping faucets, using rain barrels to collect water for outdoor use, etc. At a broader level you can think about how other everyday choices affect water use, such as the products you buy and foods you eat. (For example, more processed foods require more water to create, meat requires more water than grains and vegetables, etc.)

More information can be found at the following sites:

Grand River Conservation Authority: <http://www.grandriver.ca/index/document.cfm?Sec=8&Sub1=90>

The Groundwater Foundation:
<http://www.groundwater.org/ta/protection.html>

Environment Canada :

A consumer's guide to water conservation:

http://www.ec.gc.ca/WATER/en/info/pubs/nttw/e_nttwi.htm

Tips to reduce individual water use: http://www.ec.gc.ca/WATER/en/info/pubs/FS/e_FSA6.htm#action

Wise Use of Water – Brochures: http://www.ec.gc.ca/WATER/en/info/pubs/brochure/e_broch.htm

Community level activities:

<http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/community/pdf/tips.pdf>

Water efficiency and conservation links: http://www.ec.gc.ca/WATER/en/manage/effic/e_weff.htm

Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge/Youth

26. How do we merge science with Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge to inform everyone about the spiritual importance of water?

Rather than looking for ways to merge ATK and science, and judging ATK by the criteria of science, we can consider the two alongside one another. The emphasis now should be on sharing the knowledge that we have and incorporating it into our decision-making by involving First Nations people in decision making and education initiatives.

27. What is seen/understood as appropriate consultation and accommodation of Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge

ATK is principally held by knowledge holders at the community level and not all decisions or development activity may benefit from the sharing of ATK. This will be defined to a great extent by the community or communities involved and by the nature of the activity that would benefit from this knowledge. Large scale, high impact projects that may have an impact on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of a given community would warrant considerable attention to ATK related information.

28. How do we use Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge without losing its true meaning and context?

In order to use ATK to best effect, it is important to include the knowledge holders in the decision making process where ATK is used. Because ATK is a way of knowing, and not a database, it is only really properly shared when the people who hold the knowledge share it. Government's documentation and reporting processes and structures must be able to accommodate both the tangible and intangible aspects of ATK.

29. How can the general public help support the Mother Earth Water Walk?

Two Anishinawbe Grandmothers, and a group of Anishinawbe Women and Men have taken action regarding the water issue by walking the perimeter of the Great Lakes. Along with a group of Anishinabe-kwe and supports, they walked around Lake Superior in Spring 2003, around Lake Michigan in 2004, Lake Huron in 2005, Lake Ontario in 2006, Lake Erie in 2007, and Lake Michigan again in 2008. The 1st Annual Women's Water Walk took place April 2003. Several women from different clans came together to raise awareness that our clean and clear water is being polluted by chemicals, vehicle emissions, motor boats, sewage disposal, agricultural pollution, leaking landfill sites, and residential usage is taking a toll on our water quality. Their message is that water is precious and sacred...it is one of the basic elements needed for all life to exist. (These are excerpts from the website – for more information see <http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com/aboutus.html>.)

For the public to help support the Mother Earth Water Walkers they need to know about it, so publicity is very important. People could offer accommodations for the walkers during their travels, free meals etc., and could publicly demonstrate their support to help get the word out. The Water Walkers plan to walk the shores of the St. Lawrence River in the Spring, of 2009. The public could come together to organize annual water walks along the shores of the watercourses in their community, and to raise awareness of water issues and the importance of water.

30. How do the policy makers plan on incorporating Anishinabek ceremonies into policy?

It will be important to find ways to include the teachings and messages provided by ATK in policy. Ceremonies are sacred, however, it is the information that can be shared from the ceremonies that we need to work together to incorporate into policy.

Water Management Planning/Federal Issues/ Consultation/ Headwaters

31. What water and wastewater guidelines can First Nation use? INAC protocol or 170/03?

There are a variety of guidelines that can be utilized either in whole or in part by First Nations. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada could provide further information about the use of water and wastewater guidelines and protocols.

In Ontario, the Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03) under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* regulates municipal and private water systems that provide water to year-round residential developments and designated facilities that serve vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. The MOE does not enforce its legislation in First Nation communities, including the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and its regulations. However, the MOE offers the following in regard to First Nations drinking water systems:

- In 2004, the Province established the Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC) which ensures training is available and accessible to operators in small and remote communities, and to First Nations operators. Operators of

drinking water systems in First Nations' reserves are welcome to participate in the Operator Certification program on a voluntary basis.

- The WCWC also has two Mobile Training Units that are available to provide training to system operators, including those on First Nation communities, in their home communities.
- Currently, all municipal residential drinking water systems are required to have a Certificate of Approval prior to commissioning a drinking water system. The Certificate of Approval provides approval to build and operate a system. MOE engineers conduct a review of design plans to confirm the proposed system's conformance to the requirements of the *Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act* and its regulations. MOE offers a similar service free of charge to First Nations upon request, whereby engineers conduct a review of plans for a First Nations' drinking water system to assess whether it would meet Ontario's requirements for municipal systems. If the First Nations' drinking water system met Ontario's requirements, the MOE would provide a letter of conformance stating this.

The INAC Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nation Communities contains standards for design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of drinking water systems and is intended for use by First Nations staff responsible for water systems. It is also intended for use by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) staff, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) for INAC staff, and all others involved in providing advice or assistance to First Nations in the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of their drinking water systems in their communities, in accordance with established federal or provincial standards, whichever are the most stringent.

Any water system that produces drinking water destined for human consumption, that is funded in whole or in part by INAC, and that serves five or more households or a public facility, must comply with the requirements of this protocol.

This protocol as well as the First Nations Water Management Strategy, a Chief and Council information kit and information pertaining to Operator training and certification can be found on the INAC web site.

For further clarification please visit their website at <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/H2O/>

32. What is the site release process if the site is on First Nation land? Are the rules the same for federal crown land as they are for provincial crown land?

The provincial site release process does not apply on federal reserve lands. On reserve lands the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is the Federal Department that would be responsible.

33. What about the archeological digs/findings on the sites that are being built?

In an archeological assessment the local First Nation is normally involved with the archeologist during the assessment process and would have a direct influence on the assessment and the results or findings of the study. A report is filed with the Environmental Assessment.

34. What is the criteria for consultation with First Nations (For Site Release)?

The MNR has a duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples where its actions may adversely affect an established or asserted Aboriginal or Treaty Right. Canadian courts continue to clarify the nature of this duty. The MNR is committed to meeting its obligation to consult with Aboriginal people and, where appropriate, to accommodate the exercise of their rights.

Guiding Principles of the Site release process:

- Consult with Aboriginal communities where a disposition will result in the infringement of an existing Aboriginal or Treaty Right, or where a disposition involves lands that are subject to an Aboriginal land claim;
- Promote economic partnerships between Aboriginal communities and the business and corporate sector using Crown land and natural resources as a basis for Aboriginal economic development.

First Nation communities are involved early in the process. If an application is received and the District confirms the application is complete, the site is both eligible and available for award, and the Applicant has provided preliminary financial estimates and acknowledged the required technical expertise, the District will: notify local Aboriginal community(ies) of a potential waterpower development and elicit their preliminary interests and/or concerns as they relate to the site.

The local District will make reasonable attempts to meet with the Identified Aboriginal Community(ies) to discuss their preliminary interests and/or concerns related to the site; advise the community(ies) that they are the Identified Aboriginal Community for this site release, explain the purposes of this designation and disclose information about all other Identified Aboriginal Community(ies), supply them with a Community Preparation Package, and clarify next steps in the site release process as well as elicit their interests and concerns as they relate to being Identified Aboriginal Community(ies).

First Nations work with the local District office and the proponent to build a consultation process which will work for each individual Aboriginal Community.

35. Does Ontario have maps for headwater protection? If not is there a thought towards this type of inventory?

MNR does not have headwater protection maps at the provincial level, however, there is a database for both quaternary and tertiary watersheds from which headwaters can be defined and mapped on a project by project basis. Land Information Ontario (LIO) manages this geographic information for use in maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). LIO has a web-accessible data warehouse that contains more than 250 different layers of geographic data. The data ranges from the location of underground wells to satellite imagery. More than 2000 registered users deposit and extract geographic data from the LIO Warehouse. Further information on LIO can be found at: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LIO/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_167950.html

Both Quaternary and Tertiary watershed information is available in LIO to users via an Unrestricted Use Licence (UUL). The general public can apply for an UUL. The Union of Ontario Indians can also apply for an Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) which is specifically for Non-Governmental Organizations, other ministries, academia, and conservation authorities – OGDE members have access to a much broader range of data than the UUL users.

36. What about developments less than 1 MW and those greater than 10 MW? And what is the process for proposed developments of these sites?

For those projects less than 1 MW the Direct Site Release Process (Section 4.1.1) applies. Direct site release process also applies to developments proposed by riparian owners and developments <25MW proposed by a local Aboriginal community and/or their partner within the basins of the Severn, Winisk, Attawapiskat and Albany Rivers.

If the proposed development is greater than 1MW and less than or equal to 10 MW and does not otherwise qualify for Direct site release the Non-Competitive Site Release (Section 4.1.2) process applies.

Potential waterpower development sites greater than 10 MW that do not otherwise qualify for Direct Site Release are processed through an applicant driven, MNR managed, competitive process referred to as the Competitive Site Release process (Section 4.1.3).

In both the Non-Competitive and Competitive site release processes, Aboriginal communities are identified to promote economic partnerships between Aboriginal communities and the business and corporate sector. MNR will demonstrate a preference for proposals that provide benefits to the Identified Aboriginal communities.

Details and steps in these processes can be found on the MNR Renewable Energy Extranet website <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Renewable/>

37. How can First Nations influence land use activities beyond their traditional lands?

First Nations can influence land use activities beyond their traditional lands through working with Chiefs of Ontario/ Provincial Territorial Organization and other Aboriginal Communities.

They can also become more involved in Provincial engagement initiatives on the development of policies and guidelines and enter into dialogue with local MNR to discuss their area of interests and concerns.

38. In Nipigon District when awarding the sites for Hydro development the Lake Nipigon First Nations entered the process with a partner to put forth this project for Hydro on run of River project on the Sturgeon River (Namewaminikan). However, MNR awarded the project to another company who had no First Nation involvement at all. It was appealed and was not successful. What meaningful consultation was followed? And for future development the duty to consult will it be meaningful and how?

P.S. MNR was not facilitator, but intervener as they awarded this contract to a company that did not involve First Nations.

The award of the applicant of record status is based on a business process and is not based on a separate process to meet the Crown obligations or duty to consult process. The duty to consult stems from the Crown’s acknowledgement of Aboriginal and treaty rights and works with the Communities to look at how a proposal might impact those rights and what identify steps that can be taken to mitigate any or all of those potential impacts.

In general, the MNR’s review of the application includes:

- **Eligibility:** Ensures site qualifies for the Site Release process under application and reasonably optimizes the site potential.
- **Availability:** Identifies conflicts with existing land use and resource management policies that may preclude water power development.
- **Applicant Competence:** Determines if the Applicant has sufficient financial means and acknowledges and demonstrates the need to ensure the appropriate technical expertise that will be required to proceed with water power development. All applications are evaluated to ensure they meet the specific minimum thresholds for eligibility. These minimum thresholds include Financial Capability and Technical Expertise. Only those applications that meet these minimum thresholds will move forward for more detailed evaluation. This project submission did not meet the minimum threshold for Financial Capability.

For those applications that meet or exceed these minimum requirements they are then scored on Identified Aboriginal Communities Participation, their response to the Site Description Package and consultation, Permitting and Approvals Planning.

As this specific project progresses through the EA process, MNR is committed to meeting its obligation to consult with Aboriginal people.

The Competitive Evaluation is laid out with the policy (section 3.3.7). This document can be found on the MNR RE extranet website at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Renewable/>

THE RESULTS FROM THE EVALUATION FORMS

**Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge & Water Policy `Workshop Evaluation Results
February 25th & 26th, 2008**

The evaluations were completed in confidence and thirty-five evaluations forms were completed and handed back at the end of the workshop.

How do you rate the workshop?

19/35 = Excellent (54%)

15/35 = Good (43%)

00/35 = Fair

01/35 = Poor (3%)

Please indicate the best features of this workshop?

08/35 = activities we did (23%)

22/35 = networking with others (63%)

27/35 = information I learned (77%)

Other Comments:

- Good variety of experience, knowledge and wisdom;
- Good food & nice location;
- Ceremonial Aspects;
- Elders;
- First Nation perspective;
- Content of workshop lacked youth involvement, not much leaders in attendance (Chiefs), otherwise good presentation, some may have been off topic;
- Recognition of the importance of ATK;
- Information stored on data key;
- Evening session and ATK;
- Hearing the various points of view and perspectives at different levels of activity or movement in water management.

What improvements would you suggest for the workshop?

13/34 = more background information to increase my knowledge (38%)

Suggestions:

- Invite all water plant operators, lands stewardship, not just chief and council;
- Examples of ATK more ATK in action;
- Need perspectives of industries, hydro and water bottling;
- Invite youth speaker and participants;
- More great work and not sure how the water treatment issue relates to ATK;
- Have similar conferences on other important topics that water is connected to and more on ATK;
- More information prior to the conference, to know what was planned and what to expect;
- Physical activities; a walk – is there a river close by?;
- Youth engagement and media release;
- Youth movement;
- It was a lot of information for one day, maybe a day and a half would be better;
- Actual First Nations encountering pros/cons;
- Speakers from First Nation with hydro dams. History example to follow – Also increase youth attendance;
- Perhaps background info on various topics could include a FAQ sheet;
- Would a written “Elders” mandate describe what our nations mean, could be done in point form and posted in the meeting room;
- More Anishinabek knowledge in teachings out in/on the land, water and forest – do ceremonies before dialogue on any or all of our resources;
- Microphones tuned up loud enough so that we can hear speakers as per Elders request;
- Midewiwin women hand drummers do opening for Conference or other hand drum group;
- Breakout sessions to hear of positive opportunities to begin solving problems communities face when it come to the great issue of producing healthy use of water;

Overall, did the workshop meet your expectations?

30/35 = Yes (86%)

03/35 = No (8%)

02/35 = Some what (6%)

Comments:

- Very stimulating with lots of questions;
- No we were talking about things that had nothing to do with drinking water;
- Presentations that I was interested in the presenter was absent, but hopefully the presentation is on the memory stick, the stick was a great idea to put all presentations on – Thank you;
- Keep presenters on time, use prompts;
- In many ways it helped me to better understand ATK and the love that Anishinabek people feel for water;
- I did not know what to expect, but it was fantastic;
- Exceeded, actually;
- It is always great to reunite with other communities and know that there are so many people out there with the same interests of water that I have;
- Question – what prevention measures is Ontario working on to prevent future contaminates from entering our water systems e.g. Road salt & other chemicals used on highways;
- Did not know what to expect, but I learned a lot and realized there is so much to learn;
- Speakers did a great job sticking to their topic and their presentations were very good;
- Too many communities still live with boil water advisory – update water treatment plants;
- Very well done Arnya, Lynn and Rhonda;
- Gained good information on correlation between governments, their laws and regulations;
- Somewhat felt that the Conference was good, also it should have some more traditional opening with drums and songs;
- Great network opportunities and new information for me;
- Increased my understanding regarding water issues and policy;

Did the workshop sustain the interest and participation?

11/35 = Very well (31%)

19/35 = Well (54%)

04/35 = Somewhat (11%)

01/35 = Did not (3%)

Comments:

- We were talking about mining this is water;
- Much more work to do. Report should include a good description of “Next Steps”;
- Some of the topic were not in my scope of interest, but I really appreciated most of the talks;
- Long day, like any other full day conference, panel discussion sparked the end;
- Really enjoyed listening to Josephine and her views, which opens my eyes as a water operator. I was unaware of the women’s water commission until now. Would like more info on this thanks;
- Some of the presentations were very technical/bureaucratic – beyond my needs;
- Some session were really dry;
- It was a lot of information to absorb on the technical and scientific side of the presentations;
- A few presentations were not concise enough;
- About our elders they should be involved, but at another time in a different setting;
- Some of the government speakers were tough to follow too much information in slides. Jack Imhoff did a really great job;
- Facilitators were dry

How would you rate the organization of the workshop?

20/35 = Very well (57%)

14/35 = Well (40%)

01/35 = Somewhat (3%)

00/35 = Did not

Comments:

- Pick a subject, water, mining, lands, they are all connected but stay on track;
- They deserve a big pat on the back;
- Great location, wonderful feast;
- Good time management, no conversations going off topic;
- A bit more information on logistics would have been helpful;
- Good Schedule, food, breaks and location;
- The topics were very important and crucial and it is important for all Anishinabek to become familiar with the Great Lakes Charter and Water Management agreements;
- Staffing at the Conference were very visible and mindful of the attendees needs;
- As equal staff need to be recognized and commended for work before and after as per duties of the job – Miigwetch Great Job;

Overall, how would you rate the workshop facilitator(s)?

22/35 = Excellent (63%)

11/35 = Good (32%)

01/35 = Fair (3%)

01/35 = Poor (3%)

Do you have any further suggestions, comments or questions regarding the water policy development process?

- We had little discussion about things that needed to talk about;
- Need to work together as we all have the same goals;
- Facilitator knew the subject;
- No bottled water;
- It's a beginning
- These Conference should happen more often and planned strategically in order to prepare First Nations to digest all information and be able to respond in a professional and educated way;
- Continue the good work;
- Consult with our elders & how we cared and protected the water, air, Mother Earth and the fire. Include these teaching into our policies;
- Aboriginal traditional knowledge panels of elders and spiritual leaders have been good, In particular I really enjoyed Chief Dean Sayers comments, he had a strong message that we as Aboriginal people need to hear more often;
- Let's do it again!;
- A little more on how the provincial and or federal law applicability or inapplicability. If more clarity could be achieved, nation political representation could be better understood. Either the complexity of developing rules and regulations on the simplicity if the law could be modified and amended to include those special relationships;
- Excellent job, kept on time, covered the questions;
- I would like to see input from the youth, they are our future leaders and have very much to say;
- Jack Imhoff was by far the most informative and enjoyable. His presentation was very clear and concise and easy to understand;
- Will there be an information or reference website for water policy development process and including sample water policies already developed;
- Would be interested in knowing progressive and next steps, outcomes from the conference.

Please add any other comments that you would like to share.

- It did not help me with things that pertain to drinking water. What is the Union doing and what direction are they going?;
- Appreciate hearing about First Nation's desire to get involved in "life" of water and to get others involved in ATK;
- Meegwetch;
- Workshop was well planned, invite elders and youth to participate and listen. Suggestion for community building – purchase pitches and glasses on tables during sessions – use tap water;
- I am very interested in how I can help and work with UOI and others in seeking away to build information and make a place for ATK in the land use planning process with government and municipalities;
- I enjoyed my experience and appreciate being invited to attend and participate;
- Thanks so much for allowing me to participate in this conference;
- Don't forget the grass roots movement, start with the little people and action will grow;
- Create a youth toolkit;
- Enjoyed the opportunity to listen to the various presentations – would like to attend future events;
- Really enjoyed listening to the workshops. Enjoyed hearing the support and interactions taking place between the aboriginals and the MNR. Kept me very interested;
- Policy on water – should restrict further contamination of our water resource in the future. It should also include a remedy for ongoing clean up of current damage of water basins by industry;
- Keep lakes clean;
- I love that the presentations were put on memory sticks. Please reduce plastic bottles, Styrofoam cups, and paper at future Conference and workshops;
- I would like to hear more on waste water management because a lot of reserves are on septic field systems;
- When industry causes spills or intent to use our Great Lakes water within their cooling towers, do they and are they obligated to consult with all 60 First Nations along the shores of the Great Lakes?;
- Complex discussion, but we need to start somewhere. Capacity development at First Nation level is crucial and our youth need to be encouraged to pursue education in technical and scientific areas;
- Workshop material very informative, food was great. Participation of attendees was encouraged. Great Work, very warm, very comfortable;
- Should take it slow on the load with elders and staff should bring awareness to each region.
- Very good conference. Great to see the snack and drinks available. Lunch provided for our elders – diabetics especially – nice to have info on data key;
- Chief Day always has a way of looking at traditional ways, aboriginal rights and progressing – Well Done;
- Chi-Miigwetch to Josephine for her powerful messages to its regards to water;
- Our communities are currently in process of writing our water and shoreline policy. What other references or websites can be looked into?;
- Thank you for such a great job and a great conference.



Anishinabek

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