

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



To / Destinataire	Mayor and Members of Council	File/N° de fichier:
From / Expéditeur	Councillor Maria McRae, Environment Committee Chair	
Subject / Objet	New standard of care for councillors under Ontario's <i>Safe Drinking Water Act</i>	Date: 14 December 2012

Dear City Council Colleagues:

Today I joined Rick O'Connor, our City Clerk and Solicitor, and Dixon Weir, our General Manager of Environmental Services, at a technical briefing on the new standard of care for municipal drinking water systems that begins on December 31, 2012. As of that date, Ontario's *Safe Drinking Water Act* makes Councillors accountable for ensuring residents have clean, safe drinking water.

Attached for your reference is a copy of *Taking Care of Your Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils*, a handbook produced by the provincial government on this issue. Also attached is a copy of the slides from today's briefing.

As I said earlier today, while it is very important that Councillors are well briefed on the legislation and our new responsibilities, I think it equally important to note that Council already exercises the kind of transparent and prudent oversight discussed in the *Safe Drinking Water Act*.

Our City has highly trained and dedicated staff working throughout our drinking water systems. They are working with clear policies and within a rigorous quality management system. As a City, we have and will continue to invest in modern equipment and infrastructure. All of this expertise and investment is evidenced by our perfect inspection record for the last three years.

Safe and reliable drinking water is one of the most fundamental services a municipality provides to residents. Council and Staff share a deep commitment to delivering the highest quality of water to Ottawa's residents. They have every reason to be proud of the caliber of Ottawa's drinking water.

Yours sincerely,

Maria McRae
Chair, Environment Committee
River Ward City Councillor

Encl. (2)

cc: Kent Kirkpatrick, City Manager
Steve Kanellakos, Deputy City Manager
Nancy Schepers, Deputy City Manager
Rick O'Connor, City Clerk and Solicitor
Dixon Weir, General Manager, Environmental Services
Tammy Rose, Manager, Drinking Water Services

