

10 QUESTIONS ON WATER PROTECTION PRIORITIES FOR ONTARIO

THE WATERSHED 2020 DIGITAL CONVENTION
will host Jeff Yurek (Minister of Env, Cons & Parks),
NDP Environment Critic Ian Arthur, Liberal
Environment Critic Lucille Collard, and Green Party
Leader Mike Schreiner to respond to these questions

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2020
SESSION @ 1:00PM



PEOPLE'S WATER CAMPAIGN
WATER FOR LIFE—NOT PROFIT



THEME 1: INHERENT TREATY AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT FIRST NATION WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY SECURITY

The Crown has fiduciary responsibilities and internationally endorsed treaty and legal obligations to support First Nation water quality and quantity security goals. This includes adequate operations and management resources and capital allocations to end boil water advisories, both for communal treatment and distribution systems (that serve 5 households or more), as well individual wells that rely on groundwater sources.

- 1. What is your position on Ontario's Crown role to ensure provincial land use, source water protection and human growth planning, as well as water extraction & export permitting policies do not interfere with the inherent, treaty, title and human rights to water of First Nations, including the right to sanitation?**
- 2. What is your position on Bill 76, calling for the harmonization of Ontario laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People?**
- 3. The provincial government is proposing a possible further extension of the existing moratorium on licensing for water bottling to April 1, 2021. What is your position on UNDRIP's provisions specific to the free, prior, and informed consent (Article 32.2 and 32.3) of Indigenous Peoples as per the commercial exploitation of water by bottling companies who have been issued provincial permits to take water across traditional territories of respective First Nations?**
- 4. What is your position on the Nation-to-Nation inclusion of First Nations in all government decisions impacting traditional territories and waters in Ontario?**
- 5. What is your position on the Nation-to-Nation inclusion of First Nations in all government decisions impacting traditional territories and waters in Ontario? What is your position on redress, restitution and just, fair and equitable compensation to First Nations (as per UNDRIP Article 28) for bulk water resources that have been confiscated and taken (exported from local tertiary watersheds) without free, prior and informed consent? Do you agree that resource revenue derived from Conservation Authority user fees, environmental damages fees and permits to take water fees should be allocated to First Nations to help support stable, ongoing funding for water treatment plant operators, public works infrastructure, and training?**



THEME 2: SUPPORTING CLEAN WATER & WATERSHED INTEGRITY

The Clean Water Act (2006) was established in response to the Walkerton Inquiry as a means to protect Ontarians' drinking water supply. This large undertaking included up to date watershed management practices and sound science. However, the CWA has significant gaps in protecting Ontarians water including unequal protection for private well owners and mapping of our aquifers and recharge areas without protective corresponding policies to address threats from aggregate or development.

6. What is your position on protecting source water protection areas, recharge areas and vulnerable aquifers outside of built boundaries (sprawl) from development and aggregate extraction?

7. What is your position on including private well owners in the Source Water Protection Act?

8. What is your position on the statutory review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, scheduled for this fall?

- *Background: Lake Simcoe is stressed by phosphorus loads, climate change, and invasive species. The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) addresses these issues and lays out regulations, monitoring, and outreach strategies to address these stressors. If implemented, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan would protect the watershed's health, and its \$420 million/year sustainable recreation sector.*



THEME 3: LAND USE DEVELOPMENT AND WATER PROTECTION

Water advocacy organizations from across the province point to land-based impacts on water—those things that happen on land but impact water—as the main sources of most water issues. The main threat to watersheds is the cumulative impact of agricultural run-off, road salt, aggregate mining, development, and pollution.

9. What is your position on land use development as it relates to protecting water?



THEME 4: LARGE SCALE DUMPING OF CONTAMINATED SOIL

Community water advocates concerned about groundwater quality in Ontario say that large scale soil dumping of contaminated soil generated during development in southern Ontario is largely unregulated and happening frequently within range of significant aquifers.

10. What is your position on the monitoring, regulation and enforcement of large-scale soil dumping in Ontario?

THIS IS OUR WATERSHED MOMENT. ARE YOU IN?

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