



The Honourable Sylvia Jones  
Minister of Health  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2C8

April 4, 2024

**Re: Public Health Ontario, Private Drinking Water Testing Program**

Dear Minister Jones,

The Auditor General of Ontario Report (Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario) dated December 2023 references a Public Health Ontario plan to gradually discontinue the private drinking water testing program (page 22).

As Chair of the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee, I have been asked by our Committee to contact you to relay our concerns with the idea of discontinuing this important program. We realize that this plan is not currently the position of your government but we want to express the importance of maintaining the testing program throughout the province.

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region is the largest Source Protection Region in the province and there is a Source Protection Plan in place, that has been implemented since 2015, to protect municipal sources of drinking water. However, a large portion of our region is comprised of rural areas, resulting in over 50% of our residents getting their drinking water from private wells. The private drinking water testing program is a critical service for these people to help them determine the safety of their drinking water supply. I am sure you agree that everyone should have access to clean, safe drinking water, regardless of whether they get their water from municipal systems or private systems.

While we support looking for ways to make existing programs more efficient, we do not support any plan that would result in the discontinuation of the private drinking water testing program in Ontario. If anything, this program needs to be promoted more through education and outreach programs across the province.

Sincerely

Jim Hunt

Chair, Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee

Cc: Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

*C/O LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION  
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