

Protecting Ontario's Sources of Drinking Water

Progress Summary (2017-2022)

Protection Framework

Clean Water Act, 2006



First step in source to tap protection

- Protects existing and future sources of drinking water in Ontario from contamination and depletion
- Enables municipalities to take action to protect source water through prevention
- Strong focus on risk management and land use planning

Provincial partnerships



- 19 lead source protection authorities
- 19 source protection committees
 - Multi-stakeholder representing local interests
 - Local champions for source protection and support on-the-ground efforts
- 286 municipalities

Source protection plans



- 22 plans protecting ~450 municipal drinking water systems
 - Science-based protection zones used to protect drinking water sources
 - Contain requirements for actions to protect drinking water
- ↑ **19186 risks addressed**
↔ **92% policies being implemented or in progress**

Actions for Protection

Prescribed instruments

- Specific approvals or instruments that ensure activities conform with source protection requirements
- New activity applications are screened for vulnerable areas and significant drinking water threats

↑ **2950 applications reviewed**
↑ **1051 risk activities regulated**

Risk management plans (RMPs)

- Site specific documents that outline required actions to address high-risk drinking water threats
- Approximately **125 risk management officials** across the province **enforce 1713 RMPs**

↑ **100% Compliance with 594 RMP inspections in 2022**

2017 ➤ 506 RMPs on 669 properties

vs

↑ 2022 ➤ **1713 RMPs on 2141 properties**

Prohibited activities

- Significant current and future threat activities can be prohibited under the Act

↑ **439 high risk activities currently prohibited in Ontario**
 For example road salt application is prohibited in certain areas

Interactive mapping tool



- Source Protection Information Atlas
- Web based interactive mapping tool with real time data
- User can determine if a property is in a vulnerable area
- Helps user identify if they need to take action to protect a nearby source of drinking water

Other actions

- ↑ **95%** of municipalities are incorporating source water protection into their official land use plans
- ↑ **2716** source water protection signs have been installed on roadways throughout Ontario
- ↑ **15811** septic systems inspected since 2017
- ↑ **3138** septic systems inspected in 2022

