



Water Policy in Canada

Water in Canada

- ❖ Water has always been thought of as being pure, clean and safe in Canada.
- ❖ Many Canadians believe that they can safely drink water from any stream or lake they come across.



Who's in Charge?

- Under the Constitution Act (1867), the provinces are "owners" of the water resources and have wide responsibilities in their day-to-day management.
- The federal government is responsible for managing water in its own "federal house."

Water is NOT a federally regulated item in Canada.



- Health Canada sets out guidelines for drinking water quality.
- The provinces control the drinking water and waste water standards.
- The provinces can choose to comply with the guidelines or they can adapt the guidelines to suit their wishes.

Federal Policy



The Federal Government Policy on Water was established in 1987 and has not been updated since.

The purpose of the Policy is to:

- a) encourage the use of freshwater in an efficient and equitable manner consistent with the social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations;**
- b) protect and enhance the quality of the water resource; and,**
- c) to promote the wise and efficient management and use of water.**

Is the Policy Enough?

- The federal government believes that it is doing enough to maintain water at an acceptable level.
- If that is true, why have there been **765** Boil Water Advisories and **10** Do Not Consume Advisories as of June 2007?
- The situation on Reserves is serious and these are water plants under the direct responsibility of the federal government.