



October 19, 2009

Shawna Bourne
Drinking Water Program Supervisor
Ministry of Environment
733 Exeter Rd, 2nd Fl
London, ON N6E 1L3

Dear Shawna:

Further to our meeting on October 5, 2009, I am following up with a letter to state Elgin St. Thomas Public Health's position with the Richmond Community Drinking Water System. Richmond Community Drinking Water System is a non-municipal year round residential system that falls under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 and Ontario Regulation 170/03. This water system has been under a Drinking Water Advisory since August 2007 for high nitrate levels.

During our meeting, you and your team identified several issues and concerns with the Richmond Community Drinking Water System. One of the major issues that was identified from a public health perspective is the inability to maintain the quality of the raw water source for the Richmond Communal Drinking Water System. Another public health concern is that the current method of treatment in place will not be able to maintain a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water to users of the system.

I understand that the Ministry of Environment will be meeting with representatives from the Municipality of Bayham in the near future. At that meeting you will be requesting the Municipality of Bayham to take charge of and oversee the operations of the Richmond Community Drinking Water System and meeting the requirements under Ontario Regulation 170/03. I support the Ministry of Environment's decision, and hope that this will resolve the problems with the existing water distribution in place and provide clean safe water for the system users.

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health will maintain the Drinking Water Advisory on the water system until we are provided documentation that states that upgrades to the system have been completed and evidence the water provided through this system is potable.

Please keep me informed with the outcome of your meeting with the Municipality and any other decisions affecting the Richmond Community Drinking Water System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franklin Warsh', written over a light blue horizontal brushstroke.

Dr. Franklin Warsh, MD, CCFP
Acting Medical Officer of Health