

**Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and
the Program on Water Issues, University of Toronto**

**Groundwater Workshop on Provincial Permitting Systems in Canada
Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto
1 Devonshire Place, South House, Campbell Room
January 20, 2006**

The purpose of the workshop is to examine, from a Canadian perspective, the characteristics of provincial groundwater permitting systems, and to identify best practices and possibilities for coordination and improvement

AGENDA – DRAFT

MORNING

8:30 Coffee

8:45 Opening Remarks

- Welcome, background and goals for the day
- Purpose of the workshop and agenda review

Linda Nowlan
Joanna Kidd

9:15 Participant Introduction

- Introduction, background of work in groundwater, key interests/concerns with groundwater permitting

All

10:00 Break

10:15 Session 1: Defining the Issues

- A comparison of provincial permitting procedures
- A View from the West: A permit system based on first in time, first in right
- A View from the East: Ontario's new Source Water Protection Initiative and Permit to Take Water System

Linda Nowlan

Rob Mathews, Manager,
Water Licensing Branch,
Manitoba Water
Stewardship

Sarah Miller, Theresa
McLenaghan, Canadian
Environmental Law
Association

12:00 Lunch

AFTERNOON

12:45 **Session 2: Moving Forward on Groundwater Permitting**

All

- What and where are the greatest pressures on groundwater currently? Where can we expect them to develop in the future?
- Do current systems adequately protect the environment?
- What are the characteristics of an ideal permitting system?
- How should pricing be used in a groundwater permitting system?
- What are the key barriers that stand in the way of integrating these characteristics into permitting systems?
- Are there examples of new and effective management approaches or tools that are currently being used?

2:30 **Break**

2:45 **Session 3: Panel Discussion and Wrap Up**

- Observations, key issues and themes

Gord Miller,
Environmental
Commissioner of Ontario,

Alfonso Rivera, Chief
Hydrogeologist, Natural
Resources Canada

Adele Hurley, Director,
Program on Water Issues,
Munk Centre (not
confirmed)

Robert Glennon, Professor
of Law and US
groundwater expert (not
confirmed)

4:00 **Adjournment**

- Next steps and acknowledgements

Linda Nowlan, Brenda
Lucas