



Environment
Canada

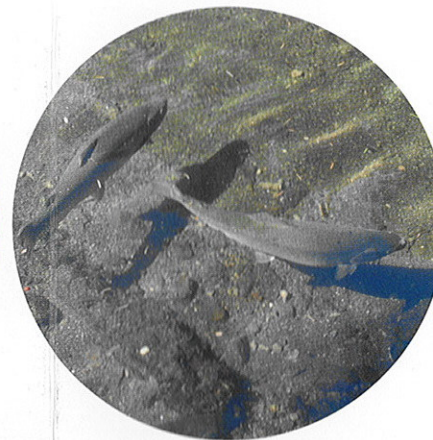
Environnement
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PROTECTING **WATER** FROM SEWAGE AND WASTEWATER



Canada 

Now is the time for Aboriginal leaders and communities to obtain information and provide comments on the Canada-wide Strategy to manage wastewater effluents.



WHAT ARE SEWAGE AND WASTEWATER?

"Sewage" is liquid wastes from homes which may also contain solid materials. "Wastewater" is a broader term that includes sewage and other liquid wastes from businesses, institutions, industries and may also include runoff from rain and snowmelt.

Sewage and wastewater are released to a wide variety of receiving environments: lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, estuaries and oceans. In Canadian waters, wastewater and sewage represent the largest source of pollution by volume.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS

To obtain more information:

Visit the Environment Canada Web site on Municipal Wastewater:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/etad/default.asp?lang=En&n=D5CE3A46-0>

Or the CCME Web site:

http://www.ccme.ca/initiatives/water.html?category_id=81

Or contact Environment Canada Inquiry Centre:

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

E-mail: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

Fax: (819) 994-1412

70 Cr  mazie, Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

To share your views:

Visit the CCME Web site:

http://www.ccme.ca/initiatives/water.html?category_id=81

Or contact Environment Canada at:

E-mail: wastewater@ec.gc.ca

Fax: (819) 953-7253

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Photo 4:   Jim Moyes, 2004



  Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (Environment Canada) 2005



Environment Canada's vision for wastewater effluents is to ensure that they do not pose unacceptable risks to human and ecosystem health and fishery resources.

THE GOAL

The goal is to protect water quality from pollutants found in sewage and wastewater released by human settlements. These pollutants lower water quality in Aboriginal communities as well as in other municipalities across Canada.

THE CHALLENGE

Levels of wastewater treatment vary by community and municipality, and range from no treatment to very advanced treatments.

Pollutants in sewage can include a variety of solid materials, disease-causing pathogens, and toxic chemicals. Several negative environmental and health impacts of sewage have been identified. They include:

- endangered fish and wildlife habitats
- reduced wildlife populations

- boil water advisories due to reduced drinking water quality
- threatened spawning grounds
- restrictions on water use such as beach closures
- restrictions on shellfish harvesting

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) is developing a *Canada-wide Strategy for the management of municipal wastewater effluents*. The CCME is currently holding information exchange sessions to engage interested parties in the development of the Strategy.

Environment Canada is leading the information exchange with Aboriginal Peoples and wants to make sure that Aboriginal leaders and communities are aware of this initiative and have an opportunity to share their views.

The Strategy's outcome will be a harmonized approach resulting in sound environmental management of wastewater across Canada.

Environment Canada intends to develop a regulation on wastewater under the *Fisheries Act* to implement the Strategy. Once the Strategy is finalized, provinces and territories will also implement it.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

- This is an opportunity for you to influence the development of wastewater effluent quality standards that will apply to your community and all other communities and municipalities in Canada.
- You can help us better understand water management in your area.
- You can tell CCME and Environment Canada about the sewage disposal challenges facing Aboriginal communities.
- The Canada-wide Strategy and the *Fisheries Act* regulation will protect human and ecosystem health and fish populations for this and future generations.

