



**Water Environment  
Association of  
Ontario**

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***“WEAO WILL BE THE PREEMINENT ORGANIZATION OF  
TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS  
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND  
ENHANCEMENT OF ONTARIO’S WATER  
ENVIRONMENT”***

Reply to: Tony Petrucci, P.Eng.  
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**Via Email: [Discussion.Paper@pir.gov.on.ca](mailto:Discussion.Paper@pir.gov.on.ca)**

The Honourable David Caplan  
Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal  
Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal  
7 Queen’s Park Crescent, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frost Building South  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Caplan:

**Submission to the Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal  
on behalf of the Water Environment Association of Ontario  
on the Discussion Paper, “Building a Better Tomorrow”**

The Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO) represents over 1,300 technical and professional individuals dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Ontario’s water environment. The WEAO members have repeatedly expressed serious concern in the decline of investment in water and wastewater infrastructure in the Province over the past 15 years.

Water and wastewater services are fundamentally different from the other three infrastructure areas in that they have been historically funded through a rates based system. This system is certainly capable of supporting the full cost of building, operating, maintaining and replacing the infrastructure and puts the Province in a position to prioritize funding in the other three areas of infrastructure needs: education, health and transportation.

Our concern, however, is that water and wastewater infrastructure, in many municipalities, is not on a solid financial base. It is therefore vitally important that the Province move forward in implementation of the Sustainable Water and Sewer Systems Act. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal can certainly play a significant role in implementing the Act to effectively place the water and wastewater infrastructure on a firm financial base, allowing the Province to then focus on other infrastructure sectors.

***33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION  
APRIL 18 - 20, 2004  
LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE  
LONDON, ONTARIO***

Member Association of:





We strongly recommend that the Province assemble an advisory group to assist in the preparation of the regulation and supporting guidelines. It is also recommended that a stakeholder group be established to provide input and guidance to this process. The WEAO is very interested in working with Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal to identify those individuals with the necessary water and wastewater utility experience in areas such as capital financing, asset management, system operations and quality control, to work with Ministry staff.

We certainly look forward to further discussion with the Ministry and participation in future stakeholder consultation on the subject of water and wastewater infrastructure renewal. We respectfully submit the attached document, which presents our comments on the Ministry's Discussion Paper on Ontario's infrastructure.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Petrucci".

Tony Petrucci  
WEAO President 2003-2004

Attachments: WEAO Comments on Discussion Paper

c: WEAO Board of Directors  
WEAO Government Affairs Committee  
Julie Vincent, WEAO Executive Administrator  
WEAO E-Newsletter and Website