



## Freshwater for the Future

### Policies for Sustainable Water Management in Canada

Gatineau, Quebec



May 8-10, 2006

Freshwater is no longer taken for granted in Canada. In the wake of the evacuation of Kashechewan and the tragedies at Walkerton and North Battleford, the safety of our drinking water has become an issue. In the face of recurring droughts in the prairies and protracted legal battles for access to water in eastern Ontario, water supplies for agriculture and industry are no longer a given. Add to these flooding in the Red River, possible cross-border contamination from the Devil's Lake diversion, the spectre of bulk water exports to the United States, and a wide array of other freshwater issues capturing the public's imagination and policy makers' attention, and the time is clearly right for new thinking on freshwater policies for Canada.

The Policy Research Initiative, together with our partners, invite you to a large conference in the National Capital Region, *Freshwater for the Future: Policies for Sustainable Water Management in Canada*.

This conference will bring together over 300 members of the water policy community from across Canada, along with selected international guests, to discuss and share thoughts and results on freshwater policy. This three-day conference will be a key milestone in the development of Canadian water policies.

The ultimate objective of this conference is to fuel open discussion of water policy options, to stimulate movement toward a national water policy framework.

## Outcomes

The primary deliverable of this conference will be a "state-of-the-art and way forward" compendium on water policy options, in the form of a series of topical synthesis papers.



# Registration and Further Information

To register or for further information, please visit the PRI web site at <[www.policyresearch.gc.ca](http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca)>. Registration will be limited.

Presentations will mainly be by invitation. However, we invite potential presenters to contact us.

## Conference Partners

Environment Canada  
Natural Resources Canada  
Health Canada  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Canada School of Public Service  
Infrastructure Canada  
Canadian Water Network  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
Public Policy Forum  
National Round Table on Environment and the Economy

## Conference Themes

In addition to plenary sessions, the conference will include concurrent workshops and conference sessions. Some of the themes to be covered include:

- What has changed since the seminal Pearse Report of 1985?
- What is the Federal role?
- Is there a need for greater policy coherence between jurisdictions?
- Will our policies help or hinder adaptation to climate change?

These questions will be asked at concurrent workshops. Workshops will address these questions through particular lenses, such as:

- The role of public-private partnerships;
- Regulatory and other challenges of providing services in small systems;
- The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and other boundary waters issues;
- Science for policy, and policy for science and technology development;
- Water as natural capital;
- Allocation and demand management; and
- Alien invasives and pollution control.