



## **Policy on Drinking Water as a Health Issue**

### **Background**

We take drinking water from the environment. Drinking water is not part of the environment. Drinking contaminated water makes people sick, the same as eating contaminated food makes people sick. At the same time, there are many real environmental issues that the MOE needs to address such as the many industries activities, which contaminate Ontario's source water from which we get our drinking water.

Ontario needs the Ministry of the Environment to be fully committed to protecting the environment without the distraction of dealing with issues which do not protect the environment, such as health related issues. Any such distracting issues or responsibilities, which are the responsibility of MOE, should be transferred to the proper portfolios in the appropriate ministries.

### **Policy**

“That NOTO advocate that the responsibility of drinking water should be transferred from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Health.”

*Adopted by the NOTO Board of Directors November 24, 2004*

*Review Date:* \_\_\_\_\_