



Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report 2016-2017

Get information on the performance of our regulated drinking water systems and laboratories, drinking water test results, and enforcement activities and programs.

Message from the Chief Drinking Water Inspector

I am pleased to present the 2016-2017 annual drinking water report for Ontario. It highlights efforts to keep our drinking water clean and among the best protected in the world.

Ontario uses a multi-barrier approach of strong legislation, stringent health-based standards, regular and reliable testing, highly trained operators, regular inspections and a source water protection program to protect the province's drinking water.

In 2016-2017:

- **99.84% of 517,601 drinking water test results from municipal residential drinking water systems met Ontario's strict drinking water quality standards.**
- **99.4% of 661 municipal residential drinking water systems received an inspection rating indicating compliance of over 80% with Ontario's strict regulations. 465 systems or 70% of systems inspected had a perfect rating of compliance.**
- **96.14% of 15,380 test results met our standard for lead in drinking water at schools and child care centres. When looking at flushed samples only, this number rises to 98%. This is up from 94% when the program began in 2007.**

We continue to have strong working relationships with partners in the ongoing enhancement of our drinking water protection system. One of our key partners, Dr. David C. Williams, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, provides an update in this report on the performance of regulated small drinking water systems.

Along with our efforts to ensure that our drinking water is among the best protected in the world, we are also striving to make sure that our protection of it is among the best communicated. Since 2006, we have transparently summarized data related to drinking water quality through this report and, since 2015, on the [Drinking Water Quality and Enforcement \(https://www.ontario.ca/data/drinking-water-quality-and-enforcement\)](https://www.ontario.ca/data/drinking-water-quality-and-enforcement) page of the [Open Data Catalogue \(https://www.ontario.ca/search/data-catalogue\)](https://www.ontario.ca/search/data-catalogue). This year, we have also expanded the data available on the Open Data Catalogue and are committed to regularly updating this data. We look forward to continuing to deliver safe, high quality drinking water.

Orna Salamon

Chief Drinking Water Inspector (Acting)
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Ontario's drinking water safety net