



February 16, 2010

The Hon. Jim Prentice  
Minister of Environment  
Environment Canada  
28<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10 Wellington St.  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Prentice:

### **Water Efficiency Standards and Labelling**

I am writing to you on behalf of a group of stakeholders in water conservation, efficiency and labelling to request your active assistance in achieving water conservation goals across the country. The group comprises this Association representing municipal water and wastewater services, the Canadian Plumbing and Heating Association that represents both manufacturers and distributors of water using appliances, and the Canadian Home Builders Association that represents homebuilders across the country. The group also comprises representatives of several provincial Departments of the Environment or Municipal Affairs, all of whom are acting under policy direction from their Governments to promote water conservation and water efficiency.

From different perspectives, all of the participants of the group share the common concern for protecting Canada's waters and ensuring its sustainability.

Through the provincial agencies, this matter was raised first at the Western Premiers Conference in 2008, and subsequently at the Council of the Federation in 2009 who then endorsed the proposal and referred it to the CCME. We have recently received a letter from the Hon. Charlene Johnson, Chair of CCME, encouraging CWWA and its partners to proceed in this manner (see attached).

On March 12 and again on May 6, 2009, I wrote to you supporting information that we had received that Environment Canada was negotiating with the US EPA regarding the WaterSense<sup>®</sup> program. You replied on July 28<sup>th</sup> indicating that negotiations were underway. Through our colleagues in the United States, who are in close contact with the WaterSense<sup>®</sup> staff, we have been advised that EPA insists that a federal partner in Canada is a pre-requisite for any collaborative program related to WaterSense<sup>®</sup> and its application in Canada. The WaterSense<sup>®</sup> program covers both standards and labeling issues.

In view of the support from CCME and your own declared support for this type of initiative, we urge you to bring forward a legislation that would address these subjects. The coming Throne Speech would be an excellent way of announcing this initiative.

The federal government has taken a clear initiative in terms of energy efficiency. Water efficiency is equally important. Any means we can encourage the facilitation and acceleration of the move towards water demand reductions through efficient appliances and conservation practices will commence reducing power demands in the water and wastewater systems and contributing to the long-term goal of greenhouse gas reductions. We want to make water efficient devices and appliances the preferred choice of homeowners and industrial, commercial and institutional water users.

Looking forward to your positive action regarding this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "T. Ellison".

T. Duncan Ellison  
Executive Director



Canadian Council  
of Ministers  
of the Environment    Le Conseil canadien  
des ministres  
de l'environnement

Greg Chartier  
President  
Canadian Water and Wastewater Association  
Unit 11, 1010 Polytek Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1J 9H9

January 25, 2010

Dear Mr. Chartier:

On behalf of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) I thank you for your leadership in developing the Canada-wide water efficiency labelling and standards (WELS) program.

Water conservation and efficiency are key priorities, particularly in light of the potential impacts of climate change on our water resources. In this respect, CCME established the Water Agenda Development Committee (WADC) to manage intergovernmental approaches to water issues in Canada. WADC is working towards delivery of a Canada-wide water agenda by 2012/13 to help ensure that Canada's water quality and quantity are managed sustainably. In October 2009 CCME ministers approved *Setting Strategic Directions for Water*, which highlights water conservation and wise use of water as one of CCME's five goals.

We applaud the effort of your organisation to advance water labelling efficiency and standards in Canada. Because these practical tools will advance the water conservation goals of CCME and WADC, we are interested in broadening the collaboration and dialogue between the Working Group and all the provinces, territories and federal government to move this initiative forward. CCME intends to follow-up with the WELS Steering Committee to identify how best do this.

On behalf of CCME, I look forward to collaborating with CWWA and the Steering Committee to ensure the fullest benefits are achieved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlene Johnson".

**CHARLENE JOHNSON**

President, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment  
Minister of Environment and Conservation, Newfoundland and Labrador