

**Ministry of Education**

Capital Policy and Programs Branch  
19th Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Direction des politiques et des programmes  
d'immobilisations  
19<sup>e</sup> étage, Édifice Mowat  
900, rue Bay  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**2016: SB26**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Senior Business Officials  
Senior Plant Officials  
Secretaries/Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Grant Osborn  
Director  
Capital Policy and Programs Branch

**DATE:** September 7, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Proposed amendments that affect schools and child care centres (O. Reg. 243 Safe Drinking Water Act)

---

I am writing to you to inform you of proposed changes to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Safe Drinking Water Act – O.Reg. 243 Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries.

Through compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, your efforts ensure the quality of drinking water for children and students while at school. The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) is proposing several amendments to further improve the quality of drinking water in the province, and is seeking feedback from stakeholders and the public who will be most affected by the proposed changes.

The MOECC has posted their proposal electronically for public comment. You are invited to view the entire proposal and to provide your input through the **Environmental Registry** ([#012-8244](tel:012-8244)) by October 7, 2016, at <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTI5MjUw&statusId=MTk1ODMy&language=en>.

Some of the proposed amendments affecting schools and child care centres include:

- Ensuring water samples from all drinking water taps and fountains – including those that have not been previously tested for lead – are tested; within two years for

primary schools and child care centres, and within five years for middle and high schools.

- Introducing mandatory corrective actions at any taps or fountains where a lead exceedance has been found from a flushed sample result.
- Updating the flushing requirements of each tap or fountain depending on the most recent sample results, including exempting facilities from having to do daily and weekly flushing of taps and fountains when lead levels are less than 1 µg/L.
- Allow the use of NSF certified filters to reduce lead in drinking water when certain conditions are met, including proper filter maintenance.

Additionally, in the coming months, the MOECC intends to consult directly with school boards regarding implementation issues through the appropriate sector organizations. The Ministry of Education will assist in coordinating these meetings. Further details will follow in the near future.

### **Ministry Contacts**

If boards have questions about the Environmental Registry or the posted proposal, please contact Stephen Hetherington, Drinking Water Program Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change at telephone (905) 319-3389 or e-mail [stephen.hetherington@ontario.ca](mailto:stephen.hetherington@ontario.ca).

*Original signed by:*

Grant Osborn  
Director  
Capital Policy and Programs Branch