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Province of Ontario Seeks Input from CIPH on Water Conservation & Efficiency Strategy

On January 16, 2009 Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) and Canadian Water Quality Association (CWQA) representatives attended a consultation with the municipal sector. The province was seeking preliminary input from the sector on what should be considered as part of a provincial water conservation and efficiency strategy.

Ontario, one of several jurisdictions who are signatories of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, are required to create a strategy by 2010 as part of their agreement. The intent is to create stronger water conservation and efficiency measures (both voluntary and mandatory).

CIPH reinforced the following:

- The elimination of 13 litre per flush water closets should be a priority in the province and CIPH has taken the necessary steps with the CSA Technical Committee responsible for fixtures to remove this product from Canadian standards.
- CIPH members are leaders in water conserving and water efficient products and are willing to partner with the province to ensure a strategy that realistically meets the goals/intent of the province.
- CIPH has recently partnered with the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association to promote the adoption of WaterSense requirements for fixtures and supply fittings in Canadian codes & standards.
- Prescriptive requirements for fixtures or supply fittings that become part of the strategy should be tied to existing Canadian codes and standards so that Ontario is not out of step with the rest of the country.
- Public education on the true value of water is needed.
- Incentive programs for cutting-edge water conserving or water efficient technologies should be part of the strategy.

The province will use the feedback obtained from this meeting (as well as feedback from consultations hosted with other sectors) to create a draft strategy including reduction targets. The draft is expected to be completed by the end of June when it will go out for full public consultation so that all CIPH members will be able to suggest modifications.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 260 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial PVF, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. CIPH members employ more than 10,000 Canadians and are an integral part of the Canadian economy. Total industry sales exceed \$4.6 billion annually.



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