



**The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago  
Council Meeting**

**Agenda Number:** 15.8.  
**Resolution Number** 24-082  
**Title:** Public Health Ontario proposes phasing out free water testing for private wells  
**Date:** Friday, April 19, 2024

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**Moved by:** Councillor Manners  
**Seconded by:** Councillor MacLeod

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Auditor General's annual report on public health from December 2023 indicates that Public Health Ontario is proposing the phasing-out of free provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and

**WHEREAS** free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, including the entire Township of The Archipelago, that rely predominantly on private drinking water; and

**WHEREAS** the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in testing, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases in these vulnerable populations; and

**WHEREAS** the tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario underscored the critical importance of safe drinking water.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The Township of The Archipelago hereby requests that the Province reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing-out of free private drinking water testing services.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, Minister of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka.

**Carried**