

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING & MONITORING

Applicable legislations:

Safe Drinking Water Act

O. Reg. 169/03 (Ontario
Drinking Water Quality
Standards)

O. Reg. 170/03 (Drinking Water
Systems)

Health Canada

Guidelines for Canadian
Drinking Water Quality

Owners and operators of drinking water systems have great responsibility in protecting their systems and the consumers. Failure to maintain drinking water systems could result in heavy fines from government inspectors and possible litigation by affected consumers.

Water quality is determined by examining physical, chemical and biological characteristics. Each of these three characteristics has set standards of water quality. The national standards (Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality) for drinking water are developed by the federal government and published by Health Canada. In addition, there are Provincial standards such as the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards, made under the Safe Drinking Water Act 2002.

The biological characteristics of water are important indicators of water quality. Two of the important biological parameters are *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) and Total Coliforms. Physical attributes have aesthetic objectives or operational guidelines, and may affect the qualities of the drinking water and its appearance.

The chemical characteristics of water can provide important indicators of water quality. Chemical characteristics of water can affect the physical qualities, including aesthetic objectives such as taste, smell, and appearance. These chemical characteristics can also affect the toxicity and safety of the water.

How Oakhill Can Help:

Oakhill can develop programs (monthly, bi-annual or annual sampling including an engineer's report) to monitor drinking water quality at residences and/or facilities to ensure that potable (safe) drinking water is provided. The individual program will be based on the client needs as per the regulation in question. The analytical data will be combined with site observations regarding water distribution system, to identify potential sources of impairment to the drinking water quality at the individual sites.

Call Oakhill for a free no obligation quote.