

July 20, 2020

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
[Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister,

**Re: Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)  
Support for the Canada Water Agency and Offer to Partner**

We are writing to you regarding the federal government's plans to establish a Canada Water Agency and modernize the *Canada Water Act*. CWWA is Canada's nationally recognized voice on the water and wastewater sector (which includes storm water and flooding). CWWA represents the common interests of Canada's public sector municipal water and wastewater services and their private sector suppliers and partners. **We fully endorse plans to establish such an agency.**

As we have with numerous federal departments and agencies already, **we are ready, willing, and able to partner with you** on issues of national concern and connect you to the needs and experience of our membership on municipal water and wastewater issues.

We need to be **part of the national dialogue.** Here is why:

*CWWA: The National Voice on Water and Wastewater Issues for Municipalities*

- CWWA was founded in 1986 by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and a group of large cities (Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, and Montreal) as a technical arm to deal with broad issues in water and wastewater sector, including storm water management.
- We represent municipal water and wastewater sector across Canada – the organizations that own and operate water and wastewater utilities and manage storm water runoff.
- We are the link between municipal water and wastewater service providers and federal decision making that pertains to municipal water and wastewater sector.
- One of CWWA's key roles with respect to federal regulation is to review and comment on proposed federal legislation, regulation and guidelines on behalf of all municipal water and wastewater utilities.

- *Federal decision makers have come to rely on and consult CWWA for a broad range of technical issues related to municipal water and wastewater services.*

#### *CWWA: A National Organization with National Reach*

- Our association includes more than 200 municipal water utilities that serve 66% of Canada's population + more than 100 private sector members.
- There's a member on the Board of Directors representing each province and regional associations.
- Our *membership is broad* and includes municipalities, consulting firms, academia, regional water and wastewater associations.
- *CWWA regularly partners with other organizations* (e.g. Federal of Canadian Municipalities, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Standards Council of Canada, Infrastructure Canada, PSC, NRC, NRCan, the Climate Risk Institute, the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction regional water and wastewater organizations) to deliver comprehensive input on cross-cutting issues.
- *We regularly communicate with other technical and academic organizations* to facilitate a broader understanding of federal initiatives. Many of the members of our Board of Directors and our technical committee members are also members of these other organizations as well.

#### *CWWA: A Strong Technical Resource*

- Our members keep us current with trends in the industry trends and our *collective voice* allows us to be a valuable stakeholder. With our members, *we are already working on key industry issues.*
- We provide direct connection to people on the ground across Canada working on these issues. *We understand how decisions affect municipalities. This provides us an in-depth understanding of "on-the-ground" technical barriers faced by Canadian municipalities.*
- We have numerous *Active and Established National Technical Committees* (see <https://cwwa.ca/>)

Thank you for taking the time to consider our offer. We are ready to be a partner, collaborator, a source of technical knowledge and experience and **continue to contribute to the national dialogue on Water and its many facets.**

Sincerely,



Robert Haller  
Executive Director

CWWA