
Results-based Plan Briefing Book 2014-15

Ministry of the Environment

ISSN #1718-6544

Ce document est disponible en français

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The Ministry of the Environment protects and improves the quality of the environment and coordinates Ontario's actions on climate change leading to healthier communities, ecological protection and economic prosperity for present and future generations. The tools the ministry uses to accomplish this include:

- Using science and research to develop policies, legislation, regulations and standards.
- Enforcing compliance with environmental laws.
- Working with other governments, Aboriginal groups and organizations, industry, stakeholders and the public.
- Monitoring and reporting to track environmental progress over time.
- Modernizing environmental approval processes.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

The Ministry of the Environment protects Ontario's water, land and air by developing and implementing legislation, policies and programs that provide for a healthy environment for a strong Ontario. It also works with other ministries, levels of government and stakeholders to reduce the emissions that lead to climate change, and to develop communities and an economy resilient against the effects of a changing climate.

Combating Climate Change and Protecting Ontario's Air

The ministry continues to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and protect the air we breathe by:

- Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan:
 - Implementing science and evidence-based strategies and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Developing a program to help Ontario facilities to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enabling transition to a low-carbon economy.
 - Eliminating the use of coal as a fuel solely to generate electricity by moving forward with the proposed Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act.
 - Expanding the use of more environmentally friendly transportation fuels to reduce emissions, improve air quality and address climate change.
 - Developing a scientific understanding of the effects of climate change in the Hudson Bay Lowlands.
 - Implementing Climate Ready: Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan; a total of 37 actions across 12 ministries to help Ontario adapt to and minimize the impacts of climate change.
 - Working with partner ministries, other levels of government and stakeholders to identify opportunities to create resilient communities with improved planning and infrastructure in areas such as: Transit – supporting Ontario's investment in transit etc., equivalent of 7 million fewer cars
 - Growth Plan – ensuring sustainable, healthier transit friendly communities
 - Greenbelt – protecting green space – healthy ecosystems
 - Infrastructure/Building Code, resilient communities and infrastructure, energy conservation/efficiency

- Improving overall air quality in Ontario by:
 - Operating a network of 40 ambient air monitoring stations across the province to supply real-time air pollutant data.
 - Ensuring reductions in emissions of smog precursors (nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide and volatile organic compounds) and air pollutants in Ontario.
 - Ensuring reductions in vehicle emissions of smog-causing pollutants through Drive Clean.
 - Regulating emissions of air pollutants from industrial facilities.
 - Implementing air zone management in Ontario as agreed by the Council of Canadian Environment Ministers.
 - Working with neighbouring provinces, the federal government, Canadian and U.S. government to seek reductions in trans-boundary impacts of U.S. emissions of smog causing pollutants.

Protecting Ontario's Water

The ministry is working to make Ontario the North American leader in water protection and innovation and to sustain Ontario's water resources for future generations. We continue to protect our water resources by:

- Implementing Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, including:
 - Helping communities protect their corner of the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.
 - Working on actions to protect and restore the Great Lakes while negotiating a new Canada-Ontario Agreement on the Great Lakes with the federal government.
 - Moving forward to complete Ontario's commitment to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Sustainable Water Agreement.
- The government has announced its intention to reintroduce legislation from the previous legislative session, including the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act which will provide new tools to take actions to protect this precious water resource.
- Keeping Ontario's drinking water among the best protected and highest quality in the world through our safety net framework – a comprehensive approach to protect drinking water from source to tap.
- Finalizing decisions on protection plans developed by local committees to address potential risks to their sources of drinking water.
- Informing the public about the quality of Ontario's drinking water through the Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report and the Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water.
- Implementing the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.
- Implementing the Water Opportunities Act to encourage the wise use of water by Ontarians, drive innovation in water technologies and approaches

to create economic opportunities and jobs, sustain water infrastructure to promote resiliency to climate change and protect Ontario's water.

Waste Diversion and Land Quality

The ministry continues to take action to ensure that Ontario has an effective waste management and brownfields regulatory framework by:

- Determining what tools will best achieve increased diversion in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sectors, including a review of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (Industrial Commercial and Institutional) regulations.
- The government has announced its intention to reintroduce legislation from the previous legislative session, including new waste reduction legislation. This would provide for more waste diversion through a stronger framework around producer responsibility and consumer protection.
- Improving environmental recycling standards to ensure appropriate management of end-of-life vehicles.
- Requiring the safe management and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.
- Implementing legislative and regulatory requirements for brownfields to ensure the proper clean-up and redevelopment of brownfield sites while protecting the environment.

Open For Business/Modernization of Approvals

The ministry continues to transform its environmental approvals process by:

- Creating a leading edge, risk-based approach which protects the environment and human health while meeting service standards through process improvements, electronic service delivery and strategic application of resources.
- Evaluating opportunities to extend the new framework to other ministry permit, license and approval programs, while maintaining strong environmental protection.
- Continuing to review renewable energy approvals to ensure human health and the environment are protected while Ontario increases renewable energy capacity to create green jobs and improve air quality.

Effective Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement

The ministry's research, monitoring, inspection, investigations and enforcement activities are integral to achieving Ontario's environmental goals. Actions include:

- **Effective Monitoring**
 - Conducting monitoring programs to understand the impacts of human activities on our environment.
 - Identifying emerging environmental concerns and tracking progress on solving problems.
 - Analyzing and testing water, air and soil samples in the ministry's laboratories.
- **Compliance and Enforcement**
 - Inspecting municipal residential drinking water systems on an annual basis, and labs licensed to carry out drinking water testing a minimum of twice a year.
 - Incorporating the principles of a modern regulator into compliance-based activities, and working with other compliance-based ministries to protect the environment and human health.
 - Carrying out inspections based on risk using a variety of compliance tools, to protect the environment and human health from regulatory non-compliance and incidents and spills, and to address complaints.
 - Conducting risk-based non-hazardous and hazardous waste program inspections and compliance activities to uncover new concerns and address non-compliance issues.
 - Supporting local community environmental projects with funds collected through environmental penalties.
 - Working with industry, stakeholders, and the public to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

Reducing Toxics in the Environment

The ministry is taking action to reduce Ontarians' exposure to toxic substances by:

- Requiring and supporting Ontario companies to look for opportunities to reduce their use, creation and discharge of toxic substances.
- Requiring regular reporting by facilities on toxic substances.
- Informing Ontarians on toxic substances and toxics reduction actions taken by facilities, through Internet publications.
- Enforcing the ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.
- Enabling the development and sale of green alternatives such as biopesticides and lower risk pesticides that have low toxicity to humans, minimal impact to the environment and that act in a non-toxic way in controlling intended pests.

Ministry Administration

Ministry administration enables the ministry to deliver its core business and achieve its vision.

Ministry administration provides management leadership and strategic advice including financial management, controllership, human resource management, legal counsel, communications, audit services, French language services and administrative services in support of all business areas.

It also includes the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry and addressing requests under the Freedom of Information Act, both of which enable citizen participation in government decisions, and provides information to the public on environmental initiatives.

Greening Internal Operations

The ministry continues to look for ways to reduce its environmental footprint and encourage its partners, stakeholders and suppliers to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

The ministry monitors and reduces its carbon footprint by:

- Promoting energy and water conservation.
- Developing and supporting government-wide greening and sustainability initiatives.
- Purchasing green electricity (since 2008) and green natural gas (since 2013) dramatically reducing the ministry's carbon footprint. The projected impact for 2013 will be a reduction of emissions by about 4,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).

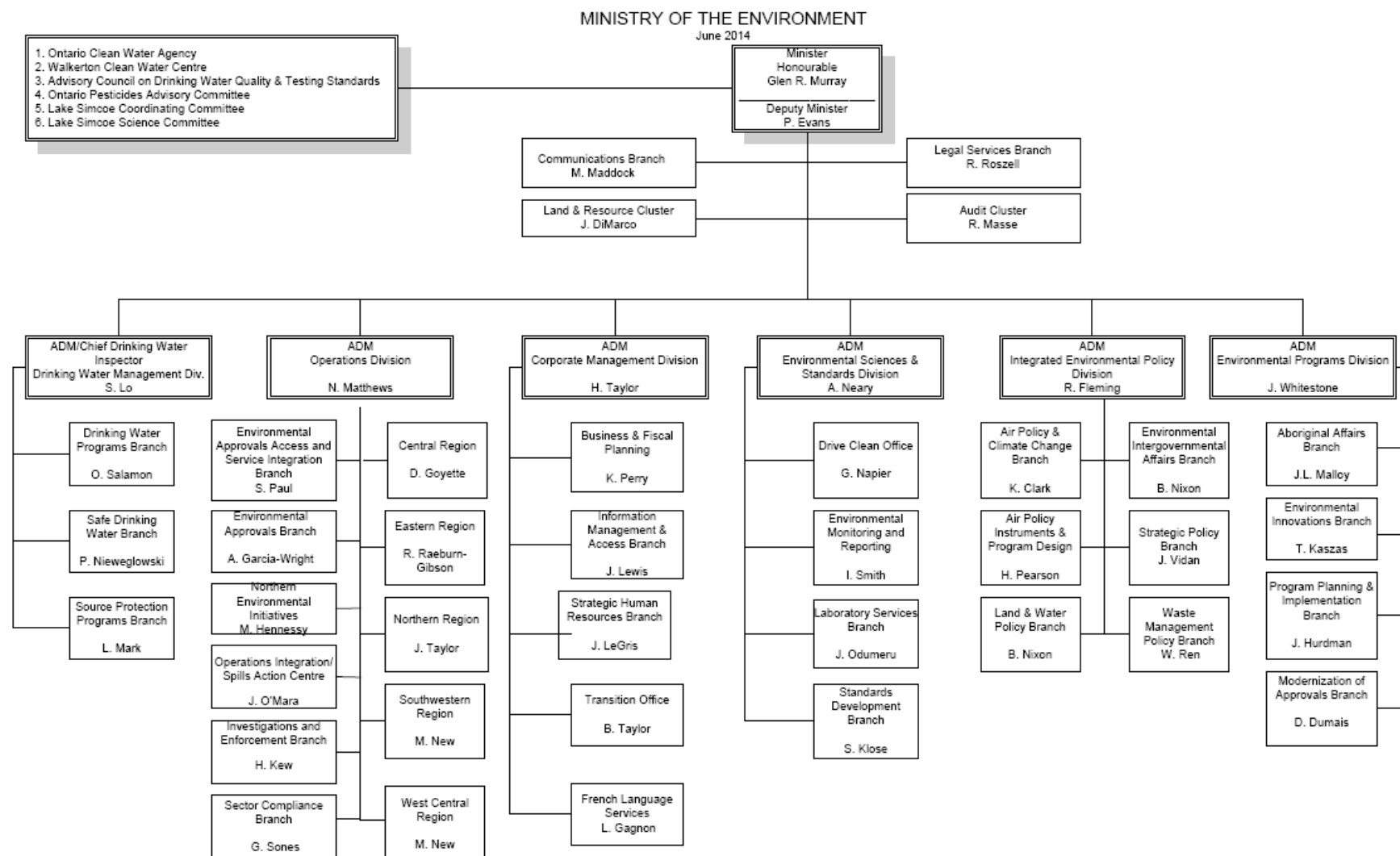
MINISTRY KEY RESULTS

- Ontario expects to meet or surpass our 2014 target of six per cent below 1990 levels by the end of the year.
- Ontario's new greener diesel rules, among the strictest in North America, went into effect April 1 and are being phased in over three years. By 2017, Ontario's greener diesel approach is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 600,000 tonnes a year – equivalent to taking 140,000 cars off the road.
- As of 2012-13, 99.88 per cent of the more than 530,000 drinking water test results from municipal residential drinking water systems met Ontario's rigorous, health-based standards.

- When all 22 source protection plans are in place, they will protect more than 450 drinking water systems.
- The Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund supported grass roots groups by awarding \$3 million in grants to 156 community-based projects since 2012-13.
- Ontario negotiated with Canada to draft a new Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health and made it available for public comment.
- The Ontario Community Environment Fund awarded 14 environmental protection projects in 10 affected communities.
- The Ministry's new Environmental Compliance Approval and Environmental Activity and Sector Registration system has saved businesses an estimated \$15 million and growing since late 2011

Refer to the Appendix for details regarding the ministry's achievements in fiscal year 2013-14.

MINISTRY ORGANIZATION CHART



LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Adams Mine Lake Act, 2004

Capital Investment Plan Act, 1993 (Part IV re: Ontario Clean Water Agency only)

Clean Water Act, 2006

Consolidated Hearings Act

Environmental Assessment Act

Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993

Environmental Protection Act

Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008

Ministry of the Environment Act

Municipal Water and Sewage Transfer Act, 1997

Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs)

Ontario Water Resources Act

Pesticides Act

Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

Toxics Reduction Act, 2009

Waste Diversion Act, 2002

Water Opportunities Act, 2010 (except for Part II)

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (ABCs)

	ESTIMATES 2014-15 \$	ACTUALS 2013-14 \$	ACTUALS 2012-13 \$
Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards	193,000	197,327	192,744
Lake Simcoe Science & Coordinating Committees	16,800	9,770	24,670
Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee	113,500	122,186	165,107
Total Agencies, Boards & Committees (ABCs)	323,300	329,283	382,521

Note: Detailed financial information for Ontario Clean Water Agency and Walkerton Clean Water Centre is provided in their Business Plans.

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

MINISTRY PLANNED EXPENDITURES (OPERATING VS. CAPITAL) 2014-15

	ESTIMATES 2014-15
	\$
Operating	329,212,114
Capital	4,946,300
Total Ministry	334,158,414

MINISTRY PLANNED EXPENDITURES (BY PROGRAM) 2014-15

VOTE/PROGRAMS	Estimates 2014-15
	\$
MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM	
Ministry Administration	22,832,400
Ministry Administration Total	22,832,400
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM	
Environmental Planning and Analysis	27,487,100
Program Design and Implementation Planning	25,738,400
Environmental Planning and Analysis Total	53,225,500
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND INFORMATION PROGRAM	
Environmental Science and Information	61,420,100
Environmental Science and Information Total	61,420,100
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAM	
Environmental Approvals	25,779,800
Environmental Compliance	113,515,300
Environmental Programs	52,373,000
Environmental Protection Capital	1,542,000
Environmental Clean-Up Capital	176,000
Environmental Protection Total	193,386,100
Less: Special Warrants	87,477,500
Total Operating and Capital Expense to be Voted	243,386,600
Special Warrants	87,477,500
Statutory Appropriations	3,294,314
Ministry Total Operating & Capital Expense	334,158,414

APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

2013-14 ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2013-14, the Ministry of the Environment undertook many initiatives and activities to fight climate change and protect Ontario's water, land and air to bring about the ministry's vision: a healthy environment for a strong Ontario.

Combating Climate Change and Protecting Ontario's Air

Ontario expects to meet or surpass our 2014 target of six per cent below 1990 levels by the end of the year. We also made significant progress towards other goals, including phasing-out the use of coal to generate electricity by the end of 2014.

We also proposed new legislation, Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act, which takes eliminating coal one step further. If passed, the legislation means once coal facilities stop operating at the end of 2014, coal-burning at standalone generation facilities will never happen again. This would help ensure the public health and climate change benefits of ending coal-fired electricity are protected.

The ministry also worked on a number of activities aimed at reducing the sources and effects of climate change and helping protect the people of Ontario from the harmful effects of air pollutants.

Ontario's new greener diesel rules are stepping up the fight against climate change and improving air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and smog-causing pollutants in cars, trucks and boats. The new rules, among the strictest in North America, went into effect April 1 and are being phased in over three years. By 2017, Ontario's greener diesel approach is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 600,000 tonnes a year – equivalent to taking 140,000 cars off the road.

The ministry also consulted on a proposal to make it easier for large industrial facilities — steel mills, lime operations and cement kilns — to use cleaner alternative fuels to replace coal. By reducing coal use, these facilities would be able to reduce their greenhouse emissions by 5 to 10 per cent while ensuring Ontario's strong air quality standards are met.

Ontario continues to work with key greenhouse gas-emitting sectors to find low cost ways to reduce emissions. This proposed program would reduce overall emissions from certain industrial sectors by five per cent over a five-year period.

Ontario's new on-board diagnostic Drive Clean test more accurately and more quickly identifies emission problems and the repairs needed to fix them. The new computerized test reads information from the on-board computer of vehicles built from

1998 onwards. Part of Ontario's efforts to reduce smog and promote healthier communities, Drive Clean keeps approximately 35,000 tonnes of smog-causing pollutants out of the air every year.

Combating climate change and protecting and enhancing air quality requires cooperation and collaboration by many jurisdictions and organizations. Ontario continued to work on a national Air Quality Management System as proposed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

New standards came into effect in 2013 for 18 air pollutants to protect air quality in local communities. Ontario has introduced 68 new and/or updated air standards since 2005.

Protecting Ontario's Water

The province continued to take strong action to protect Ontario's drinking water from source to tap. Ontario's drinking water safety net ensures that the province's water is among the best protected in the world.

Strong legislation, stringent standards, regular and reliable testing, highly trained operators, transparent public reporting and regular inspections all work together to ensure our drinking water and sources is safe.

Ontario drinking water systems continue to provide high quality drinking water. In 2011-12, 99.87 per cent of the more than 525,000 drinking water test results from municipal residential drinking water systems met Ontario's rigorous, health-based standards.

Ontario is proud of its drinking water safety net, which safeguards water from source to tap. One of the safeguards is the source protection program that addresses contamination risks to municipal drinking water sources. A second source protection plan – Niagara Region– was approved this year.

When all 22 source protection plans submitted by the 19 committees are in place, they will protect more than 450 municipal drinking water systems.

The \$13.5 million Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund gave grants to small, rural communities to help pay for start-up costs to do with plan implementation. Grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000, were provided to 188 small, rural municipalities.

Great Lakes

The government has announced intentions to reintroduce legislation from the last session. This would include the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act. If passed, it would provide new tools to help restore and protect the Great Lakes so they stay drinkable, swimmable and fishable. The ministry also released Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, Ontario's first road map to guide actions to protect the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund supported grass roots groups by awarding \$3 million in grants to 156 community-based projects since 2012-13. These local projects are helping improve wetlands, beaches and coastal areas around the lakes.

Ontario negotiated with Canada a new Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health and made it available for public comment. The draft five-year agreement will bring the Niagara River Area of Concern closer to being removed from the list of contaminated hotspots and continue the clean ups in Cornwall and the Bay of Quinte.

The ministry publicly consulted on proposed measures to strengthen the protection of the Great Lakes by regulating transfers water from one Great Lake watershed to another (intra-basin transfers). The measure would also ensure Ontario has a strong voice when responding to water withdrawal and transfer proposals on both sides of the Great Lakes.

Putting Environmental Penalties to Good Use

The Ontario Community Environment Fund uses penalties collected from environmental violations to fund projects that help improve the environment. This year 14 environmental protection projects were awarded in 10 affected communities. Funded projects included improving waterway habitats, planting trees along the shoreline, and preventing spills.

Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence

In 2013, Ontario honoured six organizations with a Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence. Each organization made outstanding contributions to the environmental stewardship of the Great Lakes.

Enabling Research to Continue in the Experimental Lakes Area

Ontario is keeping the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) in northwestern Ontario open by committing up to \$2 million a year to cover expenses and putting a regulation in place to allow experiments to proceed while ensuring the environment is protected.

Scientists from around the world conduct important research in the ELA to better understand the many threats to fresh water. Earlier research sounded the alarm on acid rain, algae blooms in fresh waters, and other environmental challenges.

Best in Science

Ontario supported 13 scientific projects through its Best in Science program, aiding research relevant to Ontario's environmental priorities. Projects range from studying phosphorus management in the Great Lakes, to assessing the impact of pollution exposure on children whose schools have drop-off areas, to finding a new way to test for viruses that cause waterborne illness.

Waste Diversion and Land Quality

Ontarians' efforts on waste diversion are working. Every year we divert 26 per cent of our waste or approximately three million tonnes of waste out of our landfills and waterways. Ontario continued its efforts to increase waste diversion.

The ministry continued to implement the waste action plan, putting in place provisions to ensure the continued financial sustainability of diversion programs for municipal hazardous and special waste, used tires and waste electronics.

The government has announced intentions to reintroduce legislation from the last session. This would include new waste reduction legislation that, if passed, would require producers to take responsibility for recycling the products they sell and encourage them to turn more waste into new products and in doing so generate new investment and create jobs.

The ministry is taking action to increase waste diversion in industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, including the review of 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) regulations.

The ministry publicly consulted on proposed new environmental standards and other requirements for end-of-life vehicle recycling facilities. The proposed standards would ensure processors remove liquid and hazardous materials such as oil, antifreeze, mercury switches from vehicles and managed them properly.

Contaminated Sites

The cleanup of the abandoned gold mine and industrial complex at Deloro is progressing. In 2012, we constructed an engineered cover for the tailings area; this year, we started building a cover for the site's industrial area and an engineered containment cell in the Young's Creek area. It will take three years to complete. The goal of the cleanup is to isolate and contain historical waste at the abandoned mine site and keep it out of the Moira River.

Reducing Toxics in the Environment

Information from more than 1,000 facilities about their use, creation and release of toxics was made available on the ministry's website. Summaries of facility toxics reduction plans are also available on the website. In fact, forty per cent of facilities are taking voluntary actions to reduce one or more of the toxic substances they use in their production of goods. Under the Toxics Reduction Act, companies must track, quantify and report the amount of toxics they use, create and release and prepare plans to identify and assess opportunities for reducing the use and creation of toxics.

The first and second Minister's Annual Report on Toxics Reduction were released. An online tool was launched to track and map toxics around the province, toxic reduction actions taken by facilities and to provide more information to Ontarians.

Modernizing Environmental Approvals

The ministry continued to develop and improve its new environmental approvals program. Working closely with the regulated community, staff evaluated additional activities and sectors for the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry process.

As of March 2014, more than 2,900 registrations were filed for six eligible activities/sectors, saving businesses an estimated \$15 million.

Staff worked in other areas to streamline processes to reduce regulatory burdens, clarify rules and regulations, and provide more efficient customer service. Examples include:

- Renewable energy approvals: A new guide helps proponents better understand their obligations for Aboriginal consultation.
- Water power projects: MOE worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources to reduce overlap and provide clarity regarding waterpower permitting approvals.
- On-farm anaerobic digestion: Farmers found the renewable energy approvals process cumbersome and expensive. After extensive consultation, MOE proposed a simpler approach, better suited to the farmer, using the Nutrient Management Act.

The ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs consulted on proposed options to allow greenhouse operators to apply excess feedwater containing valuable crop and soil nutrients to land while protecting the environment.

Effective Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement

The ministry employs the tools and practices of a modern regulator to guarantee its investigations and enforcement program is attuned to the needs of the environment and the concerns of the people of Ontario.

The 41st Air Quality in Ontario Report shows levels of air pollutants have dropped across the province since 2001 and air quality continues to improve. Over the past decade, levels of ground level ozone, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide have declined.

Inspection and enforcement activities included approximately 8,794 inspections across the province in 2012-13. The ministry's regional offices conducted 3,813 proactive and responsive inspections.

Greening Internal Operations

The ministry continues to use green natural gas and green electricity at 135 St. Clair Avenue and 125 Resources Road. Green electricity is produced from low-carbon fuels; green natural gas comes from decaying organic matter in landfills, e.g., orange peels, egg shells or grass clippings. Both buildings meet all their heating, cooling and electrical needs through green energy.

MINISTRY ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2013-14

	Ministry Actual Expenditures 2013-14
Operating	\$321.6667M
Capital	\$4.0023M
FTE Cap* (as of March 31, 2014)	
Ministry of the Environment	2,023.88
Ontario Clean Water Agency	658.48

*Ontario Public Service Full-Time Equivalent positions.