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**City Council**

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**Notice of Motion**

MM19.5	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Protecting Toronto's Moraine-Sourced Groundwater - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Peter Milczyn**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Peter Milczyn, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager and appropriate staff to review existing mechanisms for testing soil leaving Toronto-area development sites.
2. City Council request the Deputy City Manager to report back to Council, through the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in the third quarter of 2012, with recommendations for implementing a process to encourage greater consistency in soil quality testing and transparency for municipal development sites, with special attention to brownfield sites.

**Summary**

The City of Toronto is the beneficiary of the natural groundwater purification process that takes place on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Oak Ridges Moraine serves as the headwaters for all of Toronto's major rivers, both above and below ground. Protected under provincial legislation, it is widely recognized that this is a region of hydrological significance to the Greater Toronto Area.

The Clean Water Act identifies the need for municipalities in Ontario to review land use planning procedures where they impact on source protection. Ontario's Safe Drinking Water Act identifies source-to-tap as one of the eight components of protection.

Recent reports by local residents and by news outlets have indicated that soil from Toronto development sites is being dumped onto Moraine land without being properly remediated to remove chemicals and toxins.

The Province of Ontario has not implemented an oversight process to ensure self-regulation is consistent. As such, there is a policy gap that needs to be addressed to ensure the safety of Toronto's watersheds.

(Submitted to City Council on March 5 and 6, 2012 as MM19.5)

