

## **Water Governance in Transition:** Utility Restructuring and Demand Management in Ontario

Number of participants: 35  
Location: Peter Wall Institute, UBC  
Date: April 13, 2007

This first workshop in a series of two will bring together experts in various aspects of water services from across Canada with a range of stakeholders including practitioners, governmental representatives from both the provincial and municipal scales, as well as representatives from professional associations and NGOs. A policy paper stemming from ongoing research will be circulated prior to the workshop, forming the basis for building discussion.

The central questions to be addressed in this workshop deal with evolving trends in governance for water services at the municipal scale and the transition from a supply to a demand-side approach in the delivery of municipal water services. Demand-management is a specific governance issue that reflects many of the challenges related to the restructuring of governance on a broader level. Both topics (restructuring governance and DSM) will be addressed in three parts: a 10-minute presentation providing the focus of the discussions; a breakout session where the issues are broken down into three themes (scales, expertise, and governance/consumption) and addressed separately in small groups; and, finally, a report back period.

In terms water services governance, speakers and break-out groups will be asked to focus on how the restructuring of governance affects the relationship between scales of governance and their different roles in service provision, the integration of different types of expertise in the delivery of water services, and changing relationships between the utility and consumers. In terms of DSM, participants will be asked to explore the roles that different scales of governance have to play in the successful implementation of DSM programs, how different types of expertise relate to DSM as a concept and a set of practices, and the complexities of regulating consumption for utilities and consumers.