



**Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
Options for a Canada-Wide Strategy for Managing Municipal Wastewater Effluent
Comments from the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and policy (CIELAP)**

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- Adopt a user pays approach to rate charges for water and wastewater service.
- Implement a volume-based rate-scheme to encourage conservation and “front-of-pipe” technologies.
- Charge a rate that reflects the truer cost of water, including treatment, operation and capital costs.
- Sewer-use bylaw restrictions should be based on both total loadings and water volumes rather than concentration to discourage dilution of wastes.
- All municipalities with municipal sewage treatment plants should have a sewer-use bylaw with numeric limits on restricted (toxic) wastes and a monitoring and enforcement program.
- Require non-residential sources discharging waste into municipal sewers to implement an enforceable pollution prevention plan.
- All Provinces should have an up-to-date model sewer use bylaw which should take recent scientific evidences, capabilities of municipal sewage treatment plants, human and environmental health into account. The CCME could take a lead in helping to develop model bylaw.
- Consult and develop a process to determine priority endocrine disruptors in sewage and industrial effluents, develop a public education program and review licensing of pharmaceuticals and other chemicals as well as effluent permits in that context.

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