

Manure pollution 'cannot be sustained'

OTTAWA

Livestock farms in Ontario and Quebec are pumping out manure equal to the sewage of 100 million people, contaminating rivers and wells and threatening human health says a federal report.

The report, by environment commissioner Johanne Gellinas, is one of the first in Canada to identify animal waste as a major environmental and public health issue. '

"Farming practices in the (Great, Lakes-St. Lawrence River), basin are having effects that cannot be sustained." the report says.

"The misuse of manure and fertilizer on farmland has damaged the ecosystem of the basin. It is time for the government to rethink its approach."

Coliform bacteria in manure is believed to have caused the water contamination in Walkerton, Ont., last year that left seven people, dead and made 2,000 more sick.