

World Water Council

PRESS RELEASE

World Water Council President William Cosgrove announces his resignation

Marseilles, December 21, 2004 - William Cosgrove informed the members of the Council of his resignation from the Presidency and the Board of Governors of the Council effective January 7, 2005 to take up the position of President of the Bureau des audiences publiques sur l'environnement in Québec.

Cosgrove was elected President of the Council in October 2003 following a three-year term as Vice-President. Before that he was Director of the Vision Unit of the Council and co-author with Prof. Frank Rijsberman of the Council report *World Water Vision: Water is Everybody's Business*. He was active in the organization of the World Water Forums in The Hague in 2000 and in Kyoto in 2003. He is the author of many articles and has often spoken at conferences and public meetings.

The Bureau des audiences publiques sur l'environnement has as its mission to inform and consult the people of Québec on questions relative to the quality of the environment which are referred to it by the Minister of the Environment. The objective is to inform the position of the Government from the perspective of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development in this context includes social, economic and environmental aspects. The Bureau encourages the active participation of citizens in its processes.

"The decision to accept this post and resign from my international commitments was not an easy one for me" said Cosgrove in his letter to the Board. "However, the opportunity to work in my home Québec on issues of concern to me, using the consultative processes that I embrace, was compelling. When I couple this with being able to spend more quality time with my family, it could not be resisted".

"Words cannot express how much I am going to miss working with my many friends and colleagues in the world water movement as President of the Council and in my other activities, says Cosgrove. "However I will try to keep in touch, and I will be contributing in a major way in my new position to the water movement. I am sure that I will be meeting you from time to time around the world, but hope that anyone visiting Québec will contact me."

Cosgrove's term was to expire in October 2005 and he had already signaled his intention not to be a candidate in the next elections for President. Following discussions in the Bureau, Vice-President Loïc Fauchon has agreed to be Acting President until the next Board meeting in March. The Bureau will meet in a special session at the beginning of January to examine the process required for an interim replacement of Cosgrove until the elections in the Fall.

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