



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOIL WATER NOTICE IN EFFECT

DECEMBER 14th, 2018 – PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. – Prince Rupert residents and businesses are advised that a Boil Water Notice is now in effect for Prince Rupert until further notice. Residents are directed to boil water continuously for one minute prior to drinking. Seniors, children, and people with compromised immune systems are at higher risk. It is anticipated that the notice will be in effect for over a week.

Samples have indicated cryptosporidium and giardia levels higher than acceptable. Clean water is paramount. For this reason, a community-wide notice will be in effect until future samples return to acceptable levels. Please note that home water filtration systems are not considered effective in restoring water quality in this instance.

This year a dry summer followed by a storm surge event resulted in debris in the water supply, which has contributed to the notice. The City and Northern Health will be consistently sampling and monitoring the supply, and will remove the notice once bacterial components are lowered to acceptable levels.

In August of this year, the City applied for funding to implement a two-phased water treatment system and replace the submarine line that carries our potable water beneath the harbour from Woodworth and Shawatlans lakes. This represents the final phase of the City's water infrastructure replacement project – which has seen the replacement and the burial of the supply line to the dam, and will see the 100 year old dam replaced this year.

The City has sent this notice to local media and directly to residents via our municipal app and Connect Rocket emergency alert program. If you or someone you know have not subscribed to these services, please do so at www.princerupert.ca/emergency.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM NORTHERN HEALTH:

A boil water notice is issued when a health risk is determined in the drinking water source. We recommend boiling the water for a minimum of 1 minute when used for:

- Drinking
- Cooking (if not boiled)
- Brushing teeth
- Washing dishes
- Washing fruits & vegetables to be eaten raw
- Other treatment options:

MEDIA CONTACT

Northern Health

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