

# 2015 Water Quality Summary

Drinking water in the Northwest Territories (NWT) goes through a number of treatment steps and tests to ensure that it is safe and of good quality. Community governments, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and the water boards all play a role in ensuring that drinking water meets the requirements of the Public Health Act and the Water Supply System Regulations. The Public Health Act adopts the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the standard for treatment and sampling.

In the NWT, a multi-barrier approach is used to ensure drinking water safety. This approach includes source water protection, treatment processes such as filtration and disinfection, and regular sampling to verify that treatment is working properly. Community governments have primary responsibility for safe drinking water. Community governments are responsible for ensuring that trained staff treat and monitor the water on a daily basis. Various GNWT departments provide support, training and certification, funding, monitoring, and enforcement to support delivery of drinking water services.

Certified operators carry out the day-to-day operation of NWT water treatment plants. These operators have attended courses and passed an exam based on the level of complexity of the plant they operate. They are also required to maintain their certification with ongoing training and education. Operators are responsible for maintaining and cleaning their water plant, making adjustments to chemical dosages, and carrying out routine testing and monitoring for chlorine, turbidity, bacteriological quality, and other parameters. The results of all testing, along with the plant log sheets, are subject to review by the Environmental Health Officers at the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services. An additional suite of samples is taken annually to test for 28 chemical and physical parameters, such as pH, metals, dissolved and total solids, and colour.

The GNWT has recently introduced a new website, [www.nwtdrinkingwater.ca](http://www.nwtdrinkingwater.ca), which contains information for the public on the tests done on NWT drinking water, treatment processes, the roles and responsibilities of the communities and GNWT departments, and other frequently asked questions about drinking water. Questions or concerns about drinking water in a particular community should be directed to the water treatment plant operator in that community. If they cannot assist you, you can check for notices and announcements on the NWT Drinking water website. Following that if all your concerns have not been addressed you can contact your regional Environmental Health Officer.

To contact an Environmental Health Officer:

Phone: (867) 767-9066 ext 49262

Email: [Environmental\\_health@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Environmental_health@gov.nt.ca)



Community	Water Source	Certified Operator	Treated Water Bacteria Tests (% of compliance, 48 required, 228 for Yellowknife)		Treated Water Chemical Tests (1 required)		Community	Plant Classification	Water Treatment Process
			2015	2014	2015	2014			
Aklavik	Mackenzie River (Peel Channel)	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Aklavik	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Colville Lake <sup>1</sup>	Colville Lake	✗	13%	48%	✓	✗	Colville Lake	Small System	Cartridge Filtration, Chlorination, Storage
Déline	Great Bear Lake	✗	100%	100%	✓	✓	Déline	Small System	Cartridge Filtration, UV, Chlorination, Storage
Behchokò (Edzo)*	West Channel	✓	69%	60%	✓	✗	Behchokò (Edzo)	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Behchokò (Rae)*	Marian Lake	✓	79%	60%	✓	✓	Behchokò (Rae)	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Enterprise	Town of Hay River		N/A				Enterprise	N/A	see Town of Hay River
Fort Good Hope	Mackenzie River	✓	94%	94%	✓	✓	Fort Good Hope	Class I	Membrane Filtration, Chlorination and Storage
Fort Liard	Groundwater Well	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Fort Liard	Class I	Potassium Permanganate Assisted Greensand Filtration, Softening, Chlorination, Storage
Fort McPherson	Deep Water Lake	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Fort McPherson	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Fort Providence	Mackenzie River	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Fort Providence	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Fort Resolution*	Great Slave Lake	✓	83%	80%	✓	✗	Fort Resolution	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Fort Simpson	Mackenzie River	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Fort Simpson	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Fort Smith	Slave River	✓	100%	67%	✓	✓	Fort Smith	Class III	Upflow Clarifier, Filtration, Chlorination, Flouridation, Storage
Gamètì*	Rae Lake	✓	40%	52%	✓	✓	Gamètì	Small System	Chlorination
Hay River	Great Slave Lake	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Hay River	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Storage and Chlorination
Inuvik	Mackenzie River and 3 mile Lake/Hidden Lake	✓	100%	100%	✓	✗	Inuvik	Class I	Sand Filtration, Chlorination, Flouride, Storage
Jean Marie River	Mackenzie River	✓	100%	100%	✗	✓	Jean Marie River	Class I	Membrane Filtration, Chlorination, and Storage
Lutselk'e	Great Slave Lake	✓	100%	46%	✓	✓	Lutselk'e	Class I	Membrane Filtration, Chlorination and Storage
Nahanni Butte	Groundwater Well	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Nahanni Butte	Class I	Potassium Permanganate Assisted Greensand Filtration, Softening, Chlorination, Storage
Norman Wells	Mackenzie River	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Norman Wells	Class II	Conventional (Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation and Filtration), Chlorination and Storage
Paulatuk	New Water Lake	✓	100%	60%	✗	✓	Paulatuk	Small System	Chlorination
Sachs Harbour*	DOT Lake	✗	65%	100%	✓	✓	Sachs Harbour	Small System	Cartridge Filtration, Chlorination
Sambaa K'e*	Trout Lake	✓	73%	71%	✓	✗	Sambaa K'e	Class I	Membrane filtration, Chlorination and Storage
Tsiigehtchic	Tso Lake	✓	100%	92%	✓	✓	Tsiigehtchic	Class I	Nano-Filtration, Chlorination, Storage
Tuktoyaktuk	Kudlak Lake	✓	100%	100%	✗	✓	Tuktoyaktuk	Class I	Pressure Filtration, UV, Chlorination, Storage
Tulita	Great Bear River	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Tulita	Class I	Micro-Filtration, Chlorination, Storage
Ulukhaktok*	RCAF Lake	✓	65%	65%	✓	✓	Ulukhaktok	Small System	Pre-Filter, UV, Chlorination, Storage
Wekweètì*	Snare Lake	✓	46%	33%	✓	✓	Wekweètì	Small System	Chlorination
Whatì	Groundwater Well	✗	100%	100%	✓	✓	Whatì	Class I	Potassium Permanganate Assisted Greensand Filtration, Softening, Chlorination, Storage
Wrigley*	Mackenzie River	✓	92%	10%	✓	✓	Wrigley	Class I	Membrane filtration, Chlorination and Storage
Yellowknife	Yellowknife River	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	Yellowknife	Class II	Membrane filtration, Chlorination and Fluoridation

<sup>1</sup> Boil Water Advisory

Meets requirements

Does not meet requirements

<sup>1</sup> HSS & MACA Staff works with communities that submit less than the required number of bacterial samples per year to improve monitoring and reporting of samples and results. Drinking water is monitored by other parameters to ensure safety of water distributed (Chlorine and Turbidity). Low sample submission does not indicate unsafe drinking water.