



25/01/2019

Dear Resident:

The Village of Burns Lake supplies drinking water to the community which includes Burns Lake Band and Lake Babine Nation.

The existing water system consists of three groundwater wells and a small pump house located on Gerow Island. The water is then pumped to a high lift station where it is chlorinated and then pumped through the distribution system. After the chlorination process, manganese oxidizes and settles out of the water, which then collects on the inside of water lines, resulting in discolored water.

The Village has historically had poor aesthetic water quality issues due to the high levels of manganese in the well water, which is a naturally occurring metal and is commonly found in water throughout the Province. Until recently, manganese has only had an aesthetic value attributed to it, and water users were informed to simply run their taps until any discoloration cleared up. In 2019, Health Canada will set out a new health based objective for manganese, stipulating that if possible, suppliers of drinking water should filter water to below Health Canadas guidelines. These guidelines are expected to be 0.12 milligrams per litre (0.12 mg/L) Water samples for manganese which are taken from the Gerow Island well site are typically 0.35 mg/L or 3 times the recommended guidelines. Further, arsenic, which is also a naturally occurring metal, is also found in the Villages water. Although the arsenic levels are currently half of the maximum allowable concentration (M.A.C) It has been suggested by Northern Health to lower arsenic levels by as much as reasonably achievable.

The Village of Burns Lake wishes to construct a new water treatment plant which would filter out both manganese and arsenic to well below the recommended values. Over the past two years the Village has been preparing and funding many related projects for a water treatment plant, including a detailed design and drawings. This has now allowed the Village of Burns Lake to commence construction immediately after funding becomes available.

If grant funding is approved, a water treatment plant would take approximately 14 months to construct, depending on the time of year the project was to start.

Sincerely,

Dale Ross  
Village of Burns Lake - Director of Public Works