



## News Release

### City and GN officials meet to review disruption of water services in Iqaluit

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, (January 19, 2012)** –City of Iqaluit and Government of Nunavut Officials have been meeting this week to discuss the emergency situation resulting from frozen pipes and subsequent water loss that occurred last week in Iqaluit. It appears this was most likely due to extremely cold temperatures and aging water infrastructure.

“Working together is the only way we can ensure our communities continue to receive the municipal services they need,” said the Honorable Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community and Government Services. “This emergency is an example of how two levels of government can work swiftly to correct a serious issue which could have become much worse.”

“City and GN officials are meeting to review and assess the events of the past few days,” said City of Iqaluit Mayor, Madeleine Redfern. “We’re trying to figure out what happened, if any parts failed, how we responded and what life cycle investments we need to make to our Utilidor system to try and ensure this doesn’t happen again.”

This situation began on January 11, 2012 when a service pipe supplying water to Inuksuk High School connected to the City’s Utilidor system froze. The Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) responded immediately. During the evening of January 12, 2012 the frozen pipe ruptured causing a major loss of water from the City’s main Utilidor system. Contractors, City of Iqaluit and CGS staff worked around the clock to fix the broken pipe.

City staff and contractors also dealt with the flooding that occurred in Lower Iqaluit as a result of the main break. Water continued to flow from the main water supply until the City was forced to shut off the alternate valves, cutting off municipal water to most residents. As a result of the large amount of water lost from the City’s storage tanks at the Water Treatment Plant, the City determined water levels were critically low.

To ensure the safety of Iqalummiut, on January 13, 2012 the City of Iqaluit shut down all non-essential services and advised residents to stay home and conserve water until the water line was repaired and levels at the storage tanks were restored to normal levels.

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As a precautionary measure, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a boil water advisory on Friday, January 13, until the water coming from the water treatment plant could be tested for bacteria levels and meet water safety standards for human consumption. The advisory was lifted on Sunday, January 15. During the boil water advisory, the water treatment plant manager continued to ensure the water was filtered and treated with chlorine.

A temporary water line has been installed replacing the High School's broken water line. A new shut off valve has also been installed to ensure that in the future, if a leak or break occurs the water can be shut off immediately after detection.

A full replacement of the High School's water line will take place in summer 2012.

The Iqaluit District Education Authority announced that the Inuksuk High School reopened with classes resuming today.

The City of Iqaluit and Government of Nunavut would like to thank residents of the community for their understanding and for their support during this situation.

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