

# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

## Department of Health lifts City of Iqaluit Do Not Consume Order

**Iqaluit, Nunavut (December 10, 2021)** – Today, Dr. Michael Patterson, Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO), lifted the Do Not Consumer Order for City of Iqaluit's drinking water.

“Thorough testing and assessments conducted over the past eight weeks, show that the water is safe for consumption and that the risk of recontamination is low”, said Dr. Patterson. “I want to thank Iqalumiut for their patience, I know these past weeks have been challenging.”

The Department of Health worked with the Department of Community and Government Services, a third-party engineer, and the City of Iqaluit on a number of initiatives to address the Iqaluit water crisis. New monitors were installed, the site was remediated, the tanks scrubbed, and new procedures implemented to prevent and respond to potential future incidents.

The office of the CPHO also wanted to see a minimum of three consecutive test results without evidence of significant hydrocarbon contamination in the water treatment plant before lifting the Do Not Consume Order.

The Department of Health water tests between October 12 and November 25, showed higher than acceptable levels of hydrocarbons on October 12 and 19. After analyzing the data and consulting with the engineering firm, the CPHO is confident that the hydrocarbons detected after October 19 were the product of residual hydrocarbons left over from the cleanup and not from recontamination.

All tests done after October 19 show that levels of hydrocarbon substances were either undetectable or within safety levels for drinking water.

Iqalummiut are advised that there might be some residual fuel odour in the water in some areas that should dissipate after running the water for approximately 20 minutes and cleaning the aerator. If a smell persists, contact the City of Iqaluit to arrange for the water to be tested.

Please refer to the Department of Health water tests results table below.

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## Department of Health water tests results

Date	Location of reading	Substance	Maximum Acceptable Concentration (µg/L)	Recorded concentration (µg/L)
Oct. 12	Clearwell North	Benzene	5	<3000 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	Toluene	60	3050 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	Ethylbenzene	140	18900 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	Xylene, m,p	N/A*	63500 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	Xylene, 0-	N/A	45100 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	Xylene m,p,o	90	10900 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	PHC F1**	N/A	13500000 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	PHC F2***	50	52300000 – Above acceptable levels
	Raw Water Intake	PHC F2	50	60 Above acceptable levels
	Filter Room	PHC F2	390	150 acceptable
	South Well	PHC F2	390	330 acceptable
	Treated reservoir	PHC F2	390	140 acceptable
	Lake Geraldine	PHC F2	390	70 acceptable
	Clearwell North	PHC F3****	290	10100000 – Above acceptable levels
	Clearwell North	PHC F4*****	N/A	<60000 – Above acceptable levels
Oct. 19	South Clear Well	PHC F2	390	118000 – Above acceptable levels
	South Clear Well	PHC F3	290	2200 – Above acceptable levels
Oct 21	Treated Reservoir North	PHC F2	390	240 acceptable
	Treated Reservoir South	PHC F2	390	130 acceptable
Nov. 2	Treated Reservoir North	PHC F2	390	90 acceptable

Nov. 18	Treated Reservoir South	PHC F2	390	50 acceptable
Nov. 25	Treated Reservoir South	PHC F3	290	100 acceptable

\*N/A not enough data for a MAC value

\*\*PHC F1 (e.g. gasoline and solvents)

\*\*\*PHC F2 (e.g. Diesel and kerosene)

\*\*\*\*PHC F3 (e.g. lubricants and oils)

\*\*\*\*\*PHC F4 (e.g. Heavy oils and other lubricants)

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