

# Water Use Licences for Public Drinking Water Systems

Water Rights, Investigations & Modelling Section

Water Resources Management Division

Dept. of Environment and Climate Change

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/>

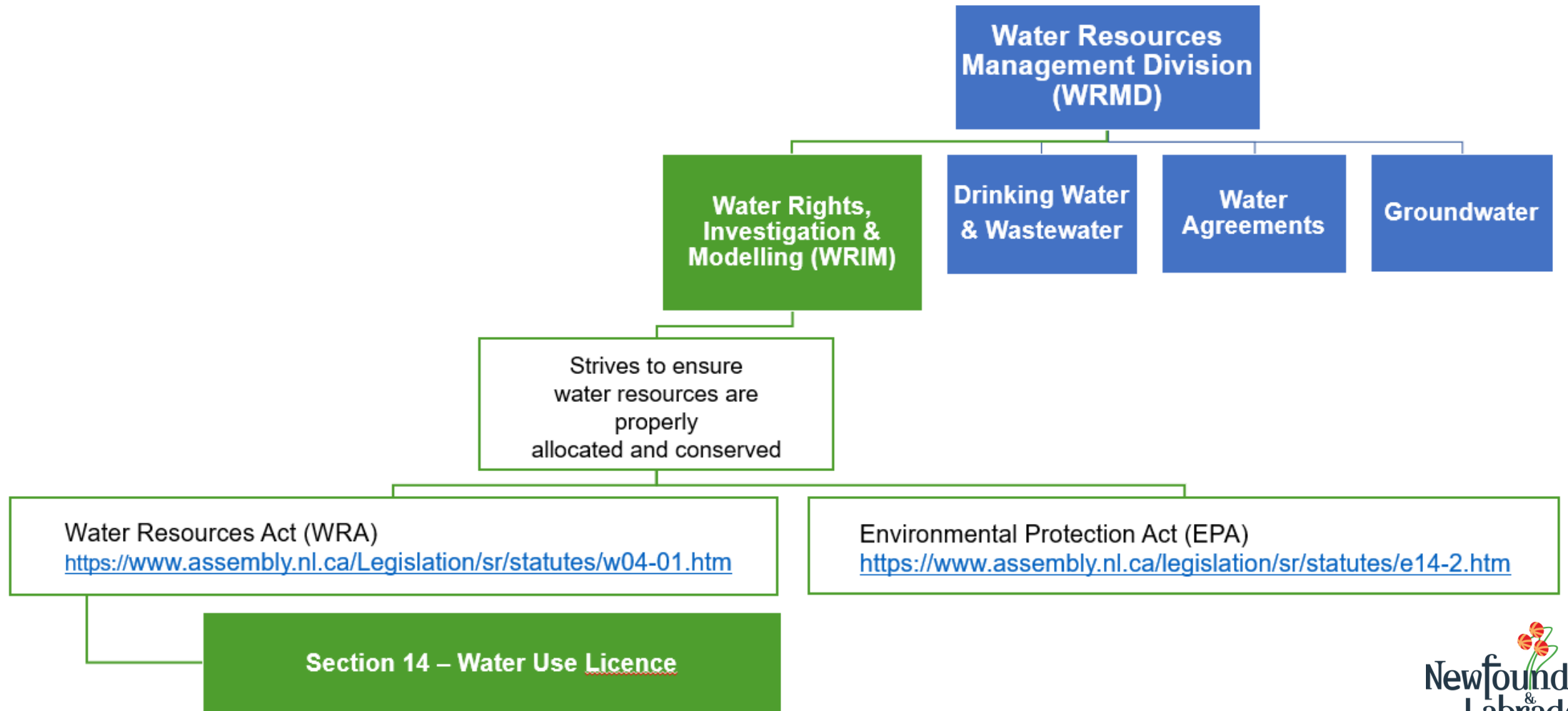
Daniel Humber, MASc, EIT

March 28, 2024

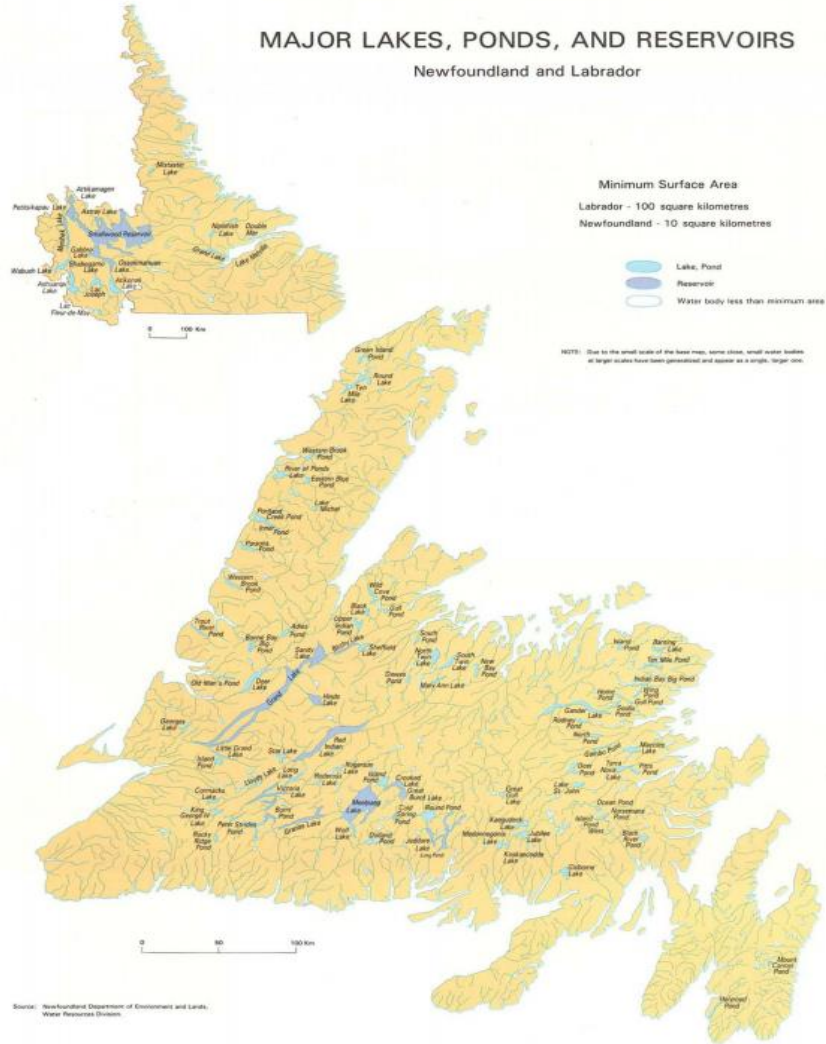
# Overview

- WRIM and Water Rights in NL
- Water Use Conflicts
- Drought and Climate Change
- Obtaining a Water Use Licence for your Drinking Water System
- Benefits of having a Water Use Licence

# WRIM Section



# The Purpose of Water Use Licences



- To Ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador's precious water resources are properly allocated and conserved for the benefits of all water use sectors and future Generations.
- Promote the recognition and appreciation of the value of water resources to ensure their sustainability and security.
- Water Planning and Management including resolution of water use conflicts as they may arise.

# When is a Water Use Licence Required?

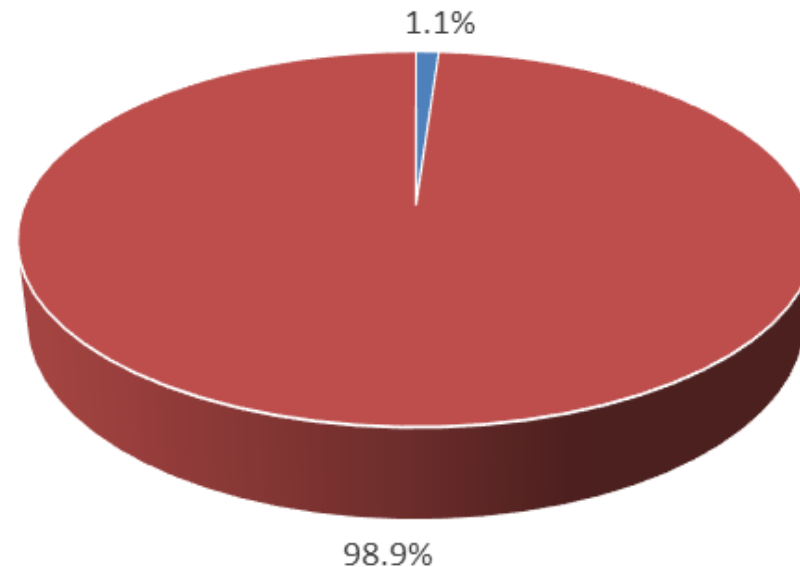


- A Water Use Licence is required to divert, withdraw, and use water for a variety of purposes, including:
  - Municipal purposes
  - Agricultural purposes
  - Commercial purposes
  - Industrial purposes
  - Water and Thermal Power Generation
  - Water Management (e.g. flood control, erosion control, flow regulation, conservation)
  - Recreation
  - Propagation of plant, fish, or other animal life

# Water Rights in NL

- Priority based water rights system
- Water use licences, registered lease agreements, or legislation
- ***Very few Public Water Supplies have valid water use licences***

Share of Municipalities & LSDs with a valid WUL



■ # of Municipalities & LSDs with a valid WUL ■ Total # of Municipalities in NL

# Water Use Conflicts



Development Competition



Water Scarcity



Inequitable Access



Environmental/Ecological Concerns

***“Whiskey is for drinking;  
water is for fighting over.”***  
**- Mark Twain**

# Water Use Conflict – NL Example

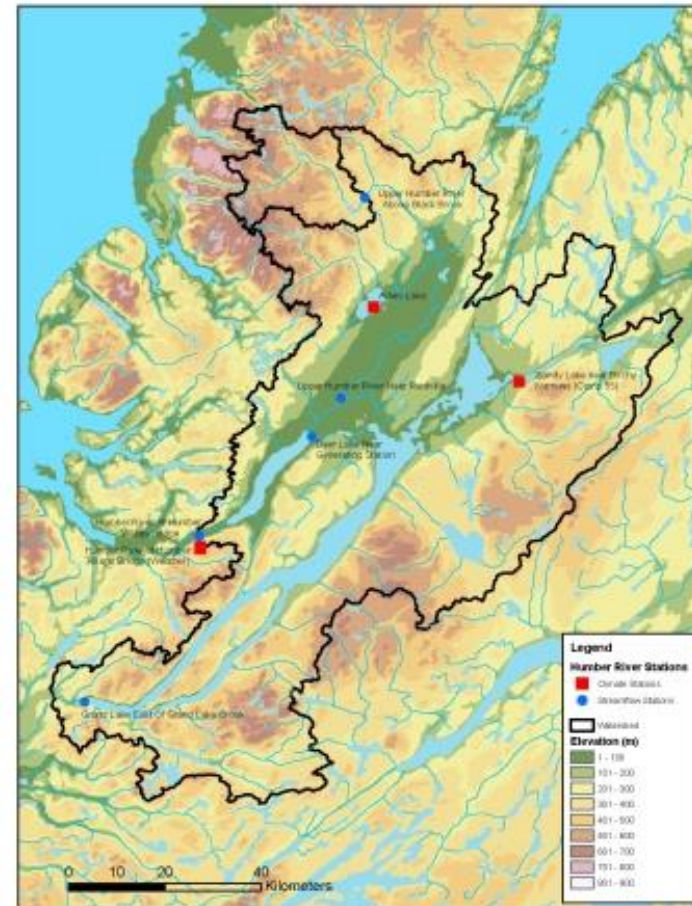
- Newfoundland Power vs City of St. John's – Bay Bulls Big Pond





# Water Use Conflict – NL Example

- Humber Valley Resort vs Corner Brook Pulp and Paper – Humber River watershed



# Development Competition



Hydro development



Green Hydrogen  
Production



Mining

# Mechanisms for Water Use Conflict Resolutions

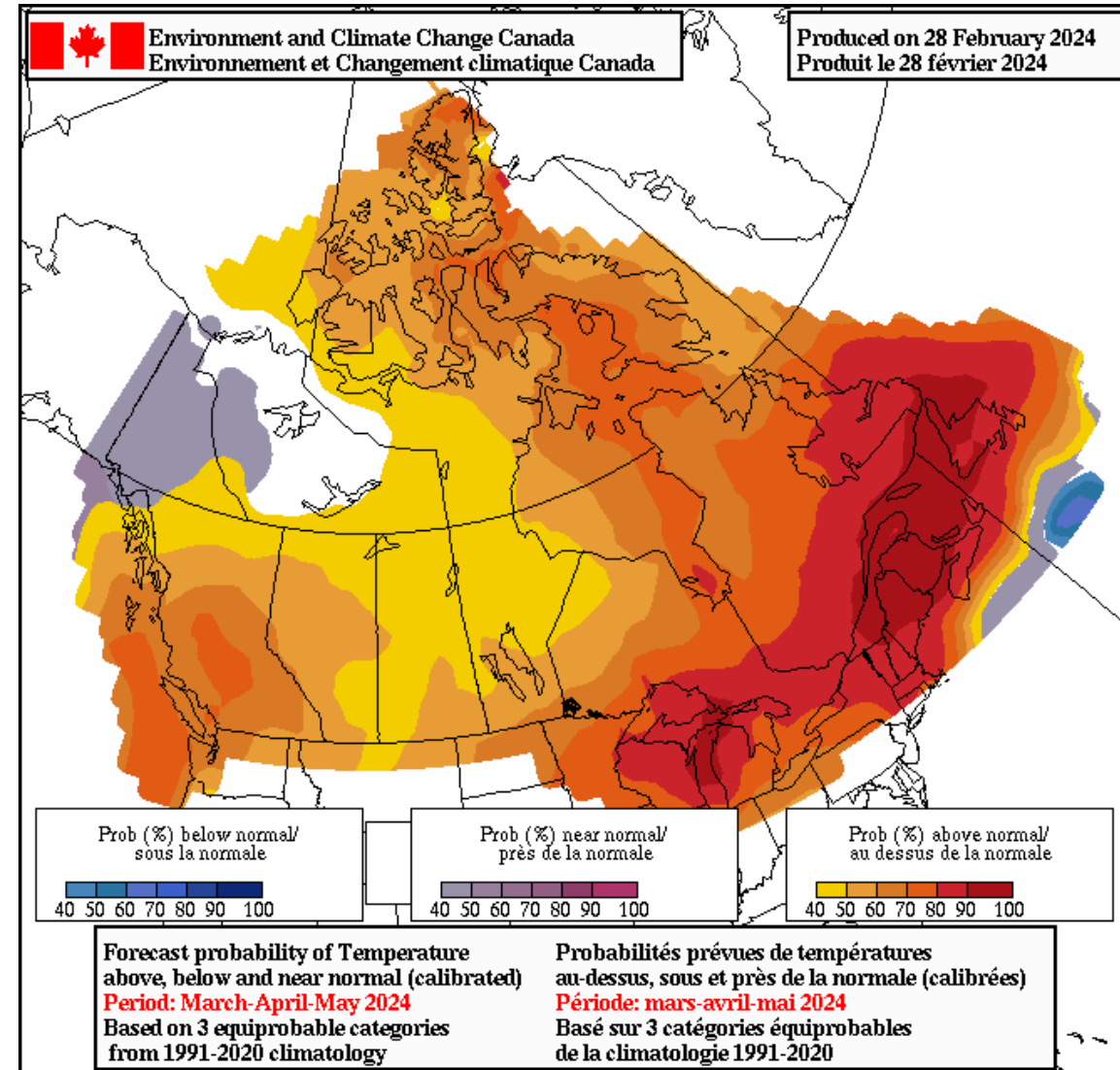
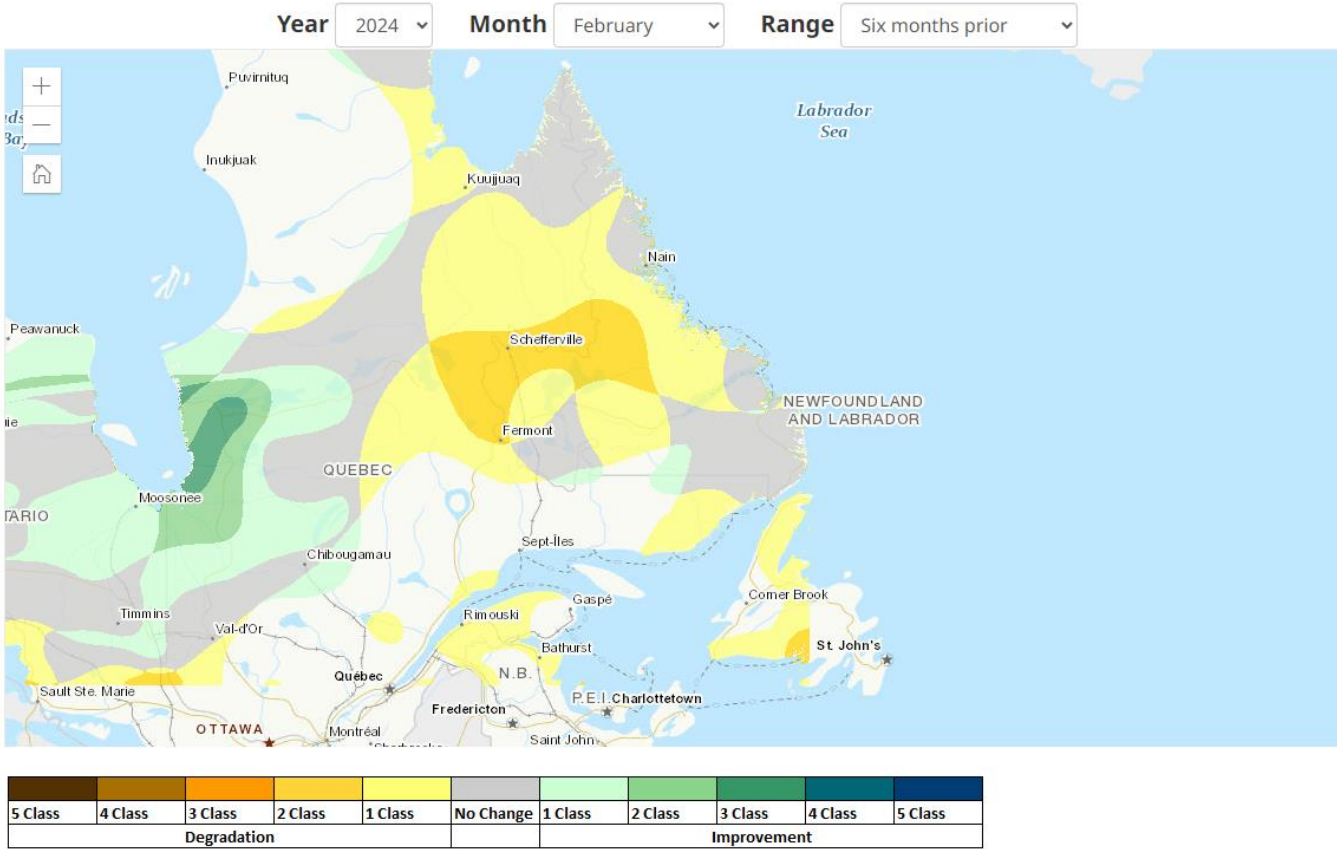
## Section 15 – Priority

- Domestic purposes
- Municipal purposes
- Agricultural purposes
- Commercial, institutional, and industrial purposes
- Water and thermal power generation

## Section 19 – Emergencies

- Minister can designate the purposes and quantities in which water may be used, and can be applied to all or a specified area of the province and/or for a specified period of time

# Drought Outlook



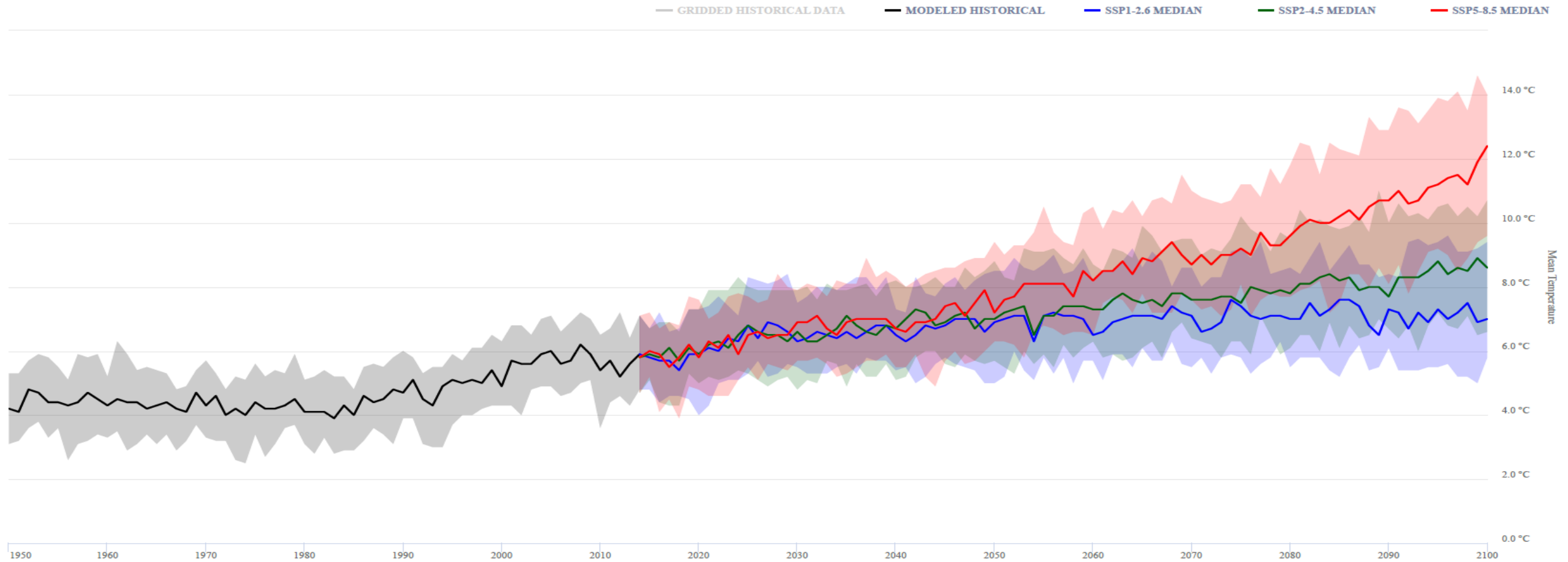
Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

# Climate Change

## Mean Temperature

Click and drag in the plot area to zoom in

Source: [Climatedata.ca](https://climatedata.ca)



# Conservation

Supply shortages can be caused by dry conditions

During Shortages:

- Promote water conservation
- Impose Restrictions
- **Install water meters at the intake**

**Water use shortages may be addressed in Section 19 of Water Resources Act (Emergencies)**



# Obtaining and Maintaining a Water Use Licence – Application & Reporting



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Environment and Climate Change  
Water Resources Management Division

## Application for Water Use Licence

As required under Part 1 of the *Water Resources Act*, SNL 2002.

Please mail completed Application Forms to:

Department of Environment and Climate Change  
Water Resources Management Division  
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Manager - Water Rights, Investigations and Modelling Sect

Email: [waterinvestigations@gov.nl.ca](mailto:waterinvestigations@gov.nl.ca)  
Fax: 709-729-0320

If assistance is required in completing these forms, please call: (709)

### NOTES:

- Indigenous Consultation:** If the application is for work in Labrador must check with the [Inter-governmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat](#) if Indigenous Consultation is required. If consultation is required, attach additional information as Exhibit "A1".



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Environment and Climate Change  
Water Resources Management Division

APPLICATION FOR WATER USE LICENCE - APPENDIX A  
For Domestic, Municipal, Agricultural, Commercial, Institutional, Industrial and Other Purposes - Complete Appendix A Only

### Notes to Applicants:

- For Water and Thermal Power Generation Go to Appendix B.

WUE-PF0

### INFORMATION ABOUT WATER USE OR DIVERSION

A1. If new work/system/structure is required for water use or diversion, have you applied for a permit to alter a body of water under Section 48 of the *Water Resources Act*? Yes  No  Has the permit been issued? Yes  No   
If yes, provide the permit number? \_\_\_\_\_

A2. Will this project or activity be located in a protected public water supply area? Yes  No   
If yes, please provide the name of the protected public water supply area? \_\_\_\_\_

A3. For all water as defined in the *Water Resources Act* and municipal water supply systems within the jurisdiction of the Province, describe the annual plan of water use or diversion as precisely as possible. Specify the total volume for the requested water per year. Also specify the water use or diversion schedule on a monthly, weekly, and/or daily basis (if necessary, attach additional information as Exhibit "A1").  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A4. What is the basin drainage area above the point of water use or diversion? \_\_\_\_\_

A5. What is the mean annual discharge at the point of water use or diversion? \_\_\_\_\_

A6. What are the estimated 3-year 7-day low flows and the estimated 10-year 7-day low flows at the point of water use or diversion? (If available) \_\_\_\_\_  
(If necessary, attach additional information as Exhibit "A2").

A7. Provide a complete list of names of all users of the water resource who may be affected by this water use or diversion. Provide the list and your plan to accommodate affected users as Exhibit "A3". Provide a "no objection" letter from the concerned municipality (if required) as Exhibit "A3".  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Environment and Climate Change  
Water Resources Management Division

### APPLICATION FOR WATER USE LICENCE

I/We hereby apply to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment to obtain a Water Use Licence under the *Water Resources Act* for utilizing water from within the jurisdiction of the Province. I/We understand that the Minister may request additional information in order to evaluate this application.

### INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICANT

1. Full Name of Applicant (Type or Print)	File Number
2. Mailing Address	
Phone Number	Fax Number
E-mail	
3. Status of Applicant (person, corporation, partnership, sole proprietor, municipality, other (Specify)) and address, phone and fax of the contact person regarding this application.	
4. Are you presently a holder of valid Water Use Licence? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

### INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT, DEVELOPMENT OR ACTIVITY

1. Name of project, development or activity (If necessary, attach additional information as Exhibit "1").

resources(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest town \_\_\_\_\_  
latitude and longitude \_\_\_\_\_ (Lat) \_\_\_\_\_ (Long) provide 1:50,000 NTS scale maps showing exact location of water use or diversion and general layout of all facilities and  
For lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, or brooks, delineate watershed boundaries on 1:50,000  
**Location of water use or diversion (must be included).** For icebergs, state proposed  
investing  
Existing   
water use or diversion as Exhibit "B3".  
 Private  Other  Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Industrial  Domestic  Municipal  Agricultural   
Industrial  (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Water and thermal power generation

Information contained in this application is true and correct.  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Newfoundland and Labrador  
Full Name & Title of Applicant or Agent \_\_\_\_\_

I/We ensure that you sign and date the application (corporations must affix seal). Provide the signature form as precisely as possible. Attach Appendix A or B that pertains to the intended activity. All material, exhibits, and applicable fees as stated in Schedule 1. All material should be typed, dated, and signed. Filing an application does not constitute any form of a priority of water use or diversion under the *Water Resources Act* unless a Water Use Licence is granted by the Minister. In accordance with Government's Proactive Disclosure Initiative, your permit will be posted online subject to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, 2015. For any information contact the Manager, Water Rights Investigations and Modelling Section at (709) 729-2255. Mail to Manager, Water Rights Investigations and Modelling Section, PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6.  
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- Applications can be found at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/permits-licenses/appforms/>
- Completed applications can be sent to: [waterinvestigations@gov.nl.ca](mailto:waterinvestigations@gov.nl.ca)
- No application fee for Municipal water users**

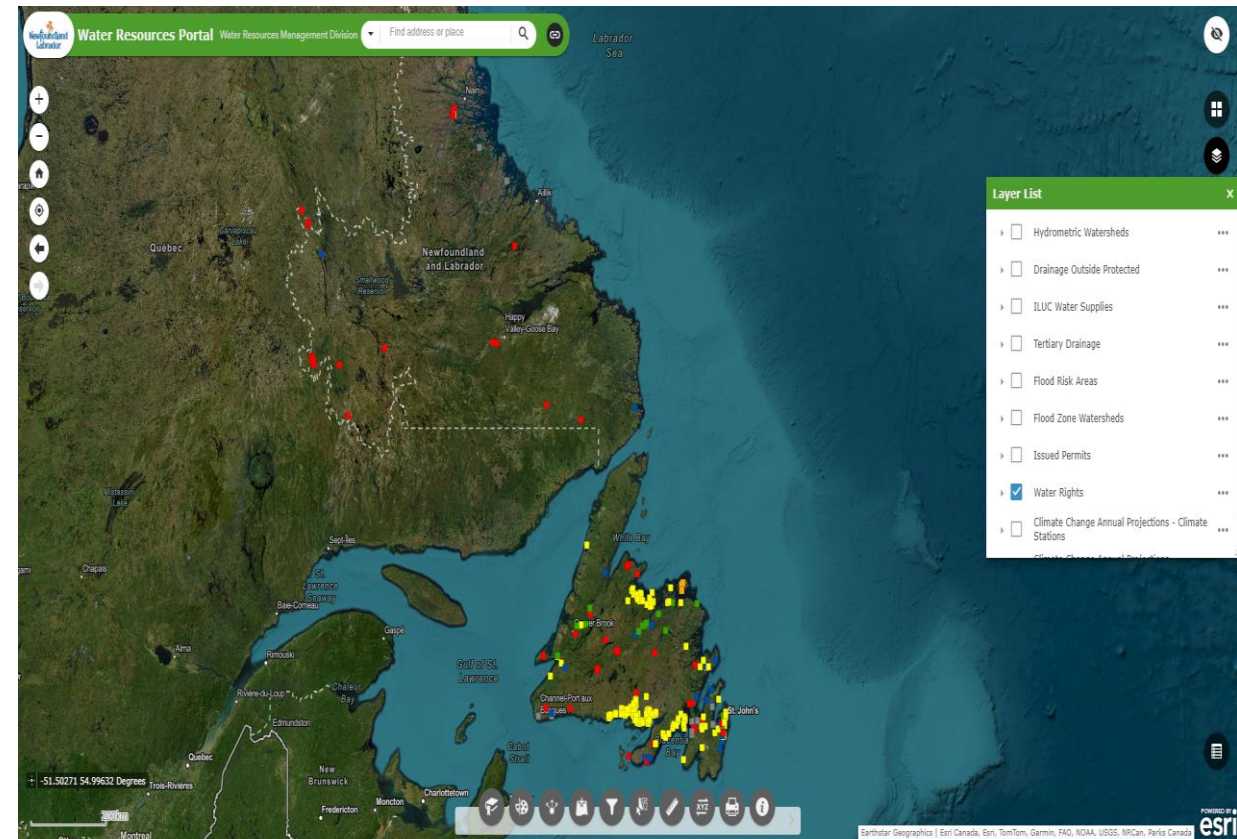
*Once a licence is obtained:*

- Water use licence holders submit annual water use report to WRMD



# Where to View Water Use Licences

- Posted on ECC website:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/permits-licenses/permits/water-use/>
- Digital water rights registry:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/waterrights/registry/>
- Water Resources Portal Layer:  
<https://gnl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f9cddf172014b8d89eaa118bdfdfb40>





# Benefits of having a Water Use Licence for Public Water Supplies

## For Towns/LSDs:

- Ensures water rights are enshrined in legislation
- Ensures priority of use during periods of water scarcity and/or development competition
- Improved water use tracking (identify leaks or other abnormal use)
- Other applicants must consult with Town/LSD

## For WRMD:

- Streamlines process for addressing potential water use conflicts
- More water use data allows for better management of water resources

# Thank you

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Dept. of Environment and Climate Change

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/>

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March 28, 2024