



# Water Supply Area Monitoring and Inspection

**Purpose: To monitor activity in the water supply area to ensure that there is no impairment of source water quality. Source water protection and all related inspection activities are primarily the responsibility of the Municipality or LSD.**

## Preparing for Monitoring and Inspection

- ❑ Solicit feedback and cooperation from councilors, residents, and any other outdoor persons who might frequent the area to bring any concerns to the council or town clerk.
- ❑ Familiarize oneself with “Management of Protected Water Supply Area” which can be found online at:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/Management-of-Protected-Public-Water-Supply-Areas-August-2023.pdf>
- ❑ Check for any current permits for development activity in the water supply and print copies to view in the field. Permits can be found online at:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/permits-licenses/permits/supply-dev/>
- ❑ What to bring?
  - ❑ Field book, pencil, digital camera, GPS, measuring tape (30m), cell phone
  - ❑ Map or satellite images showing the water supply boundaries – mapping available at Water Resources Portal: <http://maps.gov.nl.ca/water/>
  - ❑ Inspection form – available at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/Water-Supply-Area-Monitoring-and-Inspection-Form-2023.pdf>
  - ❑ Personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e. PFD if you are going near water, steel toe boots and hard hat if you are going near construction sites, bear spray, reflective vest in hunting season, etc.). Work sites may require additional PPE such as high visibility clothing/vests, safety glasses, etc.

## Where to look?

- ❑ Monitor and inspect within the watershed or catchment area that contributes to the intake or well. Be familiar with water supply boundaries.
- ❑ Focus on:
  - ❑ Intake or well
  - ❑ Around intake pond/reservoir (activities within 150m from the intake waterbody)
  - ❑ Other specified buffer zones
  - ❑ Along roads or trails in the water supply area
  - ❑ Around existing developments such as cabins, power lines, etc.
  - ❑ Around ongoing activities such as forest harvesting, quarries, etc.



Surface watershed area

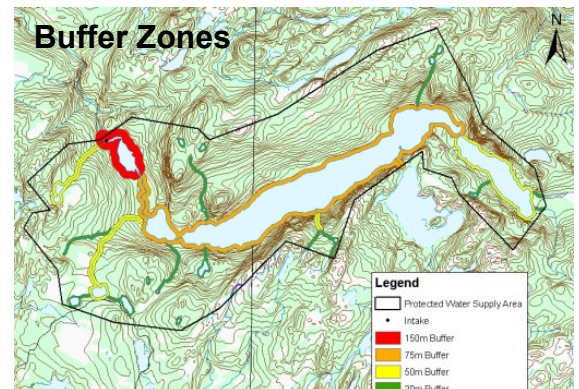


Groundwater catchment area



## What to look for?

- Signage: is signage in place along access routes to inform people that a water supply area is being entered? Is signage in good condition or does it need to be replaced?
- Signs of wildlife such as moose, caribou, coyotes, bears, birds, muskrats, geese, beavers, or beaver dams around waterbodies.
- ATVs, snowmobiles, or domestic animals crossing the intake pond, streams or wetlands.
- Illegal activity such as hunting, fishing, boating, camping, people or animals swimming, etc.
- No developments or activities (i.e. buildings, wood cutting, trails, etc.) should occur within shoreline no development buffer zones:
  - 150m of the intake pond, lake or river
  - 75m of any main river channel
  - 50m from any waterbody that flows directly into the intake pond
  - 30m from any other waterbody within the water supply area
- New developments or construction (i.e. cabins, quarries, etc.) that does not have a permit.
- Condition of private buildings and structures (i.e. are they deteriorating and have the potential to cause impairment to the water supply).
- Indication of fuel leakage from any fuel storage tanks. Fuel tanks are not permitted in a water supply unless it is stipulated in a permit. Large tanks require Service NL authorization and a GAP number. Contact your regional Service NL office for information relating to large fuel tanks.
- Indication of septic leakage at any cabin or cottage properties.
- Presence of garbage, abandoned vehicles or dumping.
- Poorly maintained roads or trails with signs of erosion.
- Water quality concerns such as increased turbidity from runoff after heavy rain, other environmental disturbances?



## Follow-up

- Take careful notes of anything you find or observe, details such as '*who, what, where, and when*'. Take distance measurements from waterbodies to activities of concern and GPS coordinates. Take lots of pictures.
- Report concerns to the Municipality or LSD for follow-up and appropriate action.
- If the issue cannot be resolved at the community level contact the Water Resources Management Division.
  - Eastern: 729-4817
  - Central: 292-4280
  - Western/Labrador: 637-2542