Water Resources
Management Division

Source Water Quality for Public Water Supplies in Newfoundland and Labrador
Physical Parameters and Major Ions

Serviced Area(s)	Source Name	Sample Date	Alkalinity	Colour	Conductivity	Hardness	pH	TDS	TSS	Turbidity	Boron	Bromide	Calcium	Chloride	Fluoride	Potassium	Sodium	Sulphate
	Units		mg/L	TCU	µS/cm	mg/L		mg/L	mg/L	NTU	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L
	Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality			15			6.5 - 8.5	500		1.0	5.0			250	1.5		200	500
	Aesthetic (A) or Contaminant (C) Parameter			A			A	A		C	C			A	C		A	A
Appleton																		
Appleton (+Glenwood)	Gander Lake (The Outflow)	Feb 25, 2026	3.90	50	23.0	5.90	6.56	13		1.50	LTD	LTD	1.30	3	LTD	0.180	2	LTD
Glenwood																		
Glenwood	Gander Lake (The Outflow)	Feb 25, 2026	3.90	50	23.0	5.90	6.56	13		1.50	LTD	LTD	1.30	3	LTD	0.180	2	LTD

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	Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality			15			6.5 - 8.5	500		1.0	5.0			250	1.5		200	500
	Aesthetic (A) or Contaminant (C) Parameter			A			A	A		C	C			A	C		A	A

Source water samples are collected directly from the source such as a groundwater well, lake, pond, or stream prior to disinfection or other treatment. The source water quality is analyzed to determine the quality of water that flows into your water treatment and distribution system. The quality of this water is a direct indicator of the health of the ecosystem that makes up the natural drainage basin, well head recharge area or watershed area. Monitoring of source water quality is the most important tool to assess the impact of land use changes on source water quality, the presence of disinfection by-product (DBP) pre-cursors and to ensure the integrity of a public water supply. The values for each parameter are as reported by the lab and verified by the department.

Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) - The department is striving to improve the quality of the data using standard QA/QC protocols. This is an evolving process which may result in minor changes to the reported data.

LTD - Less Than Detection Limit - The detection limit is the lowest concentration of a substance that can be determined using a particular test method and instrument. Detection limits vary from parameter to parameter and change from time to time due to improvements in analytical procedures and equipment.

The exceedance report for source water provides a brief discussion and interpretation of health related water quality parameters, if any, that exceed the acceptable limits as set out in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ). This comparison is only for screening purposes since at present there are no guidelines for untreated source water. The GCDWQ applies to water at the consumers tap. However in the absence of water treatment these guidelines could be applicable to source water quality

Aesthetic (A) Parameters - Aesthetic parameters reflect substances or characteristics of drinking water that can affect its acceptance by consumers but which usually do not pose any health effects. Aesthetic exceedances are highlighted in **blue text** and underlined.

Contaminants (C) - Contaminants are substances that are known or suspected to cause adverse effects on the health of some people when present in concentrations greater than the established Maximum Acceptable Concentrations (MACs) or the Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentrations (IMACs) of the GCDWQ. Each MAC has been derived to safeguard health assuming lifelong consumption of drinking water containing the substance at that concentration. IMACs are reviewed periodically as new information becomes available. Please consult your Medical Officer of Health for additional information on the health aspects on contaminants. Contaminant exceedances are highlighted in **red text** and enclosed in a box.

The reported information is for supplies selected for sampling and may not include all public water supplies.

Contaminant and Aesthetic Exceedances

Turbidity - The maximum acceptable concentration for turbidity is 1 NTU. Turbidity refers to the water's ability to transmit light or the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity in tap water can be the result of turbid raw water and influences within the distribution system. Turbidity is usually the result of fine organic and inorganic particles which do not settle out. Increased turbidity of drinking water results in it being less aesthetically pleasing, and may interfere with the disinfection process.

Boron - The interim maximum acceptable concentration for boron in drinking water is 5.0 mg/L. Boron is widespread in the environment, occurring naturally in over 80 minerals and in the earth's crust. Levels in well water have been reported to be more variable and often higher than those in surface waters, most likely due to erosion from natural resources. High levels of this contaminant can cause adverse health effects for some people

Fluoride - The maximum acceptable concentration for fluoride in drinking water is 1.5mg/L.The fluoride concentration in natural water varies widely as it depends on such factors as the source of the water and the geological formations present. Trace amounts of fluoride may be essential for human nutrition and the presence of small quantities leads to a reduction of dental caries. High levels of this contaminant can cause adverse health effects for some people.

Colour - An aesthetic objective of 15 true colour units (TCU) has been established for colour in drinking water. Colour in drinking water may be due to the presence of coloured organic substances or metals such as iron, manganese and copper. Highly coloured industrial wastes also contribute to colour. The presence of colour is not directly linked to health but it can be aesthetically displeasing.

pH -The acceptable range for drinking water pH is 6.5 - 8.5. The control of pH is primarily based on minimizing corrosion and encrustration in the distribution system. Tap water with low pH may accelerate the corrosion process in the distribution system, and contribute to increased levels of copper, lead and possibly other metals. Incrustation and scaling problems may become more frequent above pH 8.5

TDS - The aesthetic objective for TDS in drinking water is 500 mg/L. The term "total dissolved solids"(TDS) refers mainly to the inorganic substances that are dissolved in water. At low levels TDS contributes to the palatability of water. At high levels it may cause excessive hardness, taste, mineral deposition and corrosion.

Chloride - The aesthetic objective for chloride in drinking water is 250 mg/L. Chloride can be in water from a variety of sources, including the dissolution of salt deposits and salting of roads for ice control. No evidence has been found suggesting that ingestion of chloride is harmful to humans. However, high levels of chloride in water can impart undesirable tastes to water and beverages prepared from water.

Sodium - The aesthetic objective for sodium in drinking water is 200 mg/L. Since the body has very effective means to control levels of sodium, sodium is not an acutely toxic element in the normal range of environmental or dietary concentrations. At extremely high dosages it has adverse health effects. Sodium levels may be of interest to authorities who wish to prescribe sodium restricted diets for their patients..

Sulphate - The aesthetic objective for sulphate in drinking water is 500 mg/L. Sulphates, which occur naturally in numerous minerals, are used in the mining and pulping industries and in wood preservation. Large quantities of sulphate can result in catharsis and gastrointestinal irritation. The presence of sulphate above the aesthetic limit can result in noticeable taste. Some sensitive individuals may find the taste objectionable at lower sulphate concentrations

mg/L = milligrams per litre or parts per million µS/cm = micro Siemens per centimeter NTU = nephelometric turbidity units TDS = total dissolved solids TSS = total suspended solids TCU = true colour units Nitrate(ite) = Nitrate + Nitrite DOC = dissolved organic carbon

Notes:
Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality have not been developed for all the parameters listed in this report.
pH has no units