



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

# COMMUNITY NOTICE

**March 14, 2023**

## **Update on Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Plant**

**Final test results from March 1 sampling confirm that tap water in Fort Chipewyan is safe to drink and use**

The final results from the March 1 sampling and enhanced testing at the Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Plant (FCWTP) confirm that the water being produced continues to be safe, potable and meets all Canadian drinking water standards and requirements.

The final test results and a summary report of all testing and monitoring programs at the FCWTP from Jan. 1 2022 to March. 9, 2023 are available on the RMWB website at [rmwb.ca/water](https://rmwb.ca/water).

## **Closing the Water Treatment Plant Intake**

The FCWTP draws its water from Lake Athabasca. Out of an abundance of caution and in response to community concerns, on February 27, 2023, the RMWB closed the intake to stop drawing water from the lake while enhanced testing was completed. The intake remains closed at this time while the Municipality works with drinking water specialists at Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) to finalize and implement a lake intake operation and monitoring plan.

## **Enhanced Testing on Raw Water and Potable Water**

The results of the enhanced testing on March 1, 2023 confirm drinking water provided to the community continues to meet all standards set by Health Canada in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Once the intake is opened again, the Municipality will continue with the enhanced testing of the raw water diverted from the lake and monitoring of potable water for the community until further notice. Further details on the enhanced testing and monitoring plan will be shared with the community once finalized.

## **Plans during the snow melt**

It is standard practice for the Municipality to close the intake during the spring snow melt (freshet) when the flow on the Athabasca River is very high. This helps avoid highly turbid water (cloudy with particles) from being pumped into the raw water storage ponds. It's important to start re-filling the storage ponds soon so the intake can be closed during the spring snow melt.





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## Working with other agencies

The Municipality continues to have discussions with Indigenous communities, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA), and Imperial Oil.

Since the Municipality's enhanced testing is focused on the FCWTP, we have requested sampling data from AEPA monitoring stations in the area, and any other sampling data from the Athabasca River and Lake Athabasca, as they are the agency that monitors those areas. We have also requested increased monitoring by AEPA.

## Updates Online

We will continue to share information as it becomes available.

These notices and testing results are posted on the RMWB website at [rmwb.ca/water](http://rmwb.ca/water). Users may subscribe to this page so they are notified when the page is updated.

The health of Fort Chipewyan community members is and will always be our number one priority. We are taking this situation very seriously and will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that tap water remains clean and safe to use.

Anyone with questions or looking for more information, can visit the Fort Chipewyan Municipal Office or contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663.

