

COMMUNITY NOTICE



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Plant Update

Aug. 22, 2025

The water being produced at the Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Plant continues to meet all Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines and there are NO traces of hydrocarbons or contamination. Water quality is rigorously tested and monitored, with the enhanced testing program beginning in March 2023 still in place. All test results are available at rmwb.ca/waterupdate

Leak in pipe outside of Water Treatment Plant

On June 10, 2025, a leak was detected in a containment sump for diesel pipes. The diesel pipes are for a storage tank, approximately 20 metres from the plant, that supplies the boilers that heat the building. The purpose of the containment sump is to capture fluid leaking from pipes.

The diesel pipes were immediately shut off and isolated, and testing on the surrounding soil was done by a third-party environmental firm. Enhanced monitoring of the raw water storage ponds continues to be done and the regular sampling and testing of raw water from these ponds has not detected any presence of diesel/hydrocarbons. While this monitoring continues, the Municipality is confident that there is no contamination in the raw water storage ponds or at the plant.

Replacement sumps have been ordered to upgrade the existing containment systems and infrastructure. Cleanup of the area is underway and all soil that was affected by the leak will be removed. A third-party consultant is overseeing all cleanup activities to ensure all regulatory requirements are met or exceeded. All testing results from the cleanup and a final report will be shared with the community once available.

Community updates

The Municipality apologizes that notification was not provided to the community when the leak was first detected. We are committed to keeping the Fort Chipewyan community informed with transparent updates on the Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Plant and fell short here. We are reviewing our internal processes for water notifications and will be making adjustments to ensure this does not happen again.

RMWB representatives from Environmental Services, Regulatory and Indigenous & Rural Relations are in Fort Chipewyan today to meet with community leadership and answer questions. The Municipality supports the Nations and all agencies that would like to do their own independent testing.

All regulatory agencies were informed at the time of the leak and we continue to work closely with these agencies to closely monitor water quality and ensure all Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines continue to be met.

The health and safety of the Fort Chipewyan community is top priority and the Municipality will provide further updates as they become available.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please visit the Municipal Contact Office or contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or rmwb.ca/Pulse.

