

## **Lheidli T'enneh Northside and Southside Drinking Water Advisory Update!**

- The advisory on the Northside is still in effect and an advisory is now in effect for the Southside as of July 21, 2021.
- Maintenance work is currently being completed for both the Northside and Southside community water system to resolve manganese filtration concerns in the pump houses.
- Manganese is a naturally occurring substance found in both the Northside and Southside ground water well sources and it is a common in many ground water well systems.
- Manganese filtration devices were installed in both the Northside and Southside pump houses in late 2019 but there were complications with the Northside filtration devices in 2020. Complications are now being observed on the Southside.
- Samples taken for both the Northside and Southside exceeded the Health Canada recommended Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) and as a result of the exceedances on both sides, an advisory has been recommended by the First Nations Health Authority and the Band Administration for both the North and South sides.
- Advisories will be in effect until pump house concerns are resolved and future monitoring samples are below the MAC. If water system monitoring results are satisfactory on one side before the other, then there may be a recommendation to lift an advisory on one side before the other side.

### Health Information

Manganese is considered an essential nutrient but at levels above the MAC, it is recommended that residents do not consume tap water including tap water for food preparation. This is emphasized with bottle fed infants, young children and expecting mothers as they are considered more vulnerable populations. Bathing and showering is considered safe but infants can be sponge bathed to avoid ingestion during bathing. However, accidental or minimal consumption is not a concern at levels recently sampled. Health Canada did not have a Manganese MAC value until the spring of 2019 and it was considered harmless before the change. In 2019, Health Canada revised their recommendations on manganese as recent scientific knowledge indicated possible health effects when consumed at levels above the MAC. Notably, studies had indicated that brain development could be affected if young children consistently drink water with excessive amounts of manganese and the brain development evaluation was based off of IQ tests.

For more information, refer to the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidelines-canadian-drinking-water-quality-guideline-technical-document-manganese.html>