



TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION
PEOPLE OF THE INLET

NEWS RELEASE

Tsleil-Waututh Reserve Enjoys High Quality Drinking Water

North Vancouver; January 15, 2013 – Tsleil-Waututh Nation leadership is reassuring the residents of its North Vancouver reserve that the community is supplied with high quality drinking water.

“Everyone has the right to access clean, safe drinking water,” says Carleen Thomas, Elected Councilor, Tsleil-Waututh Nation. “And the people who live on the Tsleil-Waututh reserve enjoy the high quality drinking water that comes from the Metro Vancouver water supply.”

The reserve’s water comes from Metro Vancouver’s Seymour-Capilano Filtration Plant. The District of North Vancouver then distributes the water to the reserve under a service agreement contract with the Nation. The District is also responsible for operating and maintaining the water systems on the reserve.

The Tsleil-Waututh reserve is currently served by two separate water systems. On the eastern side of the reserve, the water system is “looped” so that there is fresh water constantly circulating through the system. This circulation ensures that there is no sediment buildup in the pipes. The District tests this water regularly.

“Since the Seymour-Capilano Water Filtration Plant came on line in early 2010, all water quality readings leading into and out of the Raven Woods area of Tsleil-Waututh Nation have been excellent,” said Gavin Joyce, District of North Vancouver Director of Engineering, Parks and Facilities. “The new water filtration plant ensures that all areas of the North Shore are supplied with high quality drinking water.”

On the western side of the reserve, the older water system is not looped. Water from the filtration plant is pushed uphill and to a dead-end. This reduced flow can cause sediment buildup in the pipes, which can reduce the chlorine counts.

As a precaution, Health Canada tests this water weekly. According to Peter Mazey, the acting Regional Environmental Health Manager, Health Canada, “a total of 515 bacteriological lab results were received by Health Canada for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation for the period 2009 through 2012. The results were found to be satisfactory by Health Canada.”

As a preventative measure, since 2009, Tsleil-Waututh Nation has addressed any risk associated with this sedimentation by flushing the western water system every six months. Tsleil-Waututh Nation has been working with the District of North Vancouver on finding a solution to the sedimentation issue. Once this water system is also looped, the likelihood of sediment buildup will drop dramatically.

About Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Tsleil-Waututh Nation is a progressive and vibrant Coast Salish community of approximately 500 members located along the shores of Burrard Inlet in North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. For more information please visit www.twnation.ca.

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