

Who Oversees Your Water?

WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

BC GROUND WATER PROTECTION REGULATION
See both standards for drinking water infrastructure

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Issuing water licences
- Regulating water utilities and water users' communities
- Regulates wells on private properties

BC WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT
BC WATER SUSTAINABILITY REGULATION

Regulates water licences and approvals for the purposes of supporting agriculture, commerce, domestic household requirements (surface water only), water storage & supply. Ensuring supply will meet demand

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Issuing water licences
- Regulating water utilities and water users' communities
- Regulates wells on private properties
- Settings standard for irrigation: 0.2 mg per litre (acidic soils)

DRINKING WATER

GUIDELINES FOR CANADIAN DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Set by Health Canada & the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water
Non-regulatory

In Canada, it is generally recognized that all levels of government share responsibility for the provision of safe drinking water. Most aspects of drinking water management however, fall under provincial jurisdiction.

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ACT (DWPA)
DRINKING WATER PROTECTION REGULATION (DWPR)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Monitoring the action of drinking water officers
- Reporting serious risks to safety to the Minister/Cabinet
- Preparing Annual Report to MCH on activities under DWPA

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Granting permits to operate water systems
- Conducting annual inspections
- Acting on test results
- Initiating compliance & enforcement of action

1 of 5 Regional Health Authorities that administers the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation

Each jurisdiction is then responsible for setting their own enforceable regulations, usually based on the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality

Only requires standard testing of water samples for 2 biological substances – total coliforms & e-coli

VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Testing
- Issuing notices & advisories
- Planning for emergencies & reporting
- Meeting DWPA up to property line

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Local Governments are empowered, but not obliged, to enforce the Building Code (inc. Plumbing Code)
- May hire a Building Inspector to administer building & enforce Provincial building requirements

Examples of acceptable notification methods re: water quality: signs, radio announcements, phone calls, door-to-door, emails
Approved by Health Authority

PROPERTY OWNERS

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- All water pipes, fixtures, fittings starting at the service valve at the property line

PLUMBING

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION & PLUMBING CODES (AKA Model Codes)
Designs with input from representatives from sector & public

BC BUILDING ACT
New Legislation introduced in spring 2015; it is designed to modernize and streamline the building regulatory system

BC BUILDING CODE
BC PLUMBING CODE
Non-regulatory

BUILDING/ PLUMBING INSPECTORS

RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Ultimately ensuring that construction work proceeds according to requirements of building code for new buildings & existing buildings being altered or demolished

Definitions

ACT: Law or statute passed by Parliament

REGULATION: Rules created under the authority as assigned in the ACTS, which also has the full force of law

Example:

Under the Drivers' ACT you have to have a Drivers' license to operate a vehicle. A fitting REGULATION is when your car is towed you need to present your license to get your car back. the Regulation supports the Act.