

Staff Report



DATE: October 4, 2016 (Regular)
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer
RE: **Drinking Water Update**

This report is being presented to the Board for information.

BACKGROUND:

As previously reported water testing was conducted in 36 buildings within the Abbotsford School District over the summer. District staff conducted preliminary testing, including 72-hour, 24-hour, and 2-minute flush tests. The results from the 24-hour test were relied upon for our short term action plan. Twenty-one sites were identified: Aberdeen, Aboriginal Education, Abbotsford Arts, Abbotsford Senior (old section), Abbotsford Virtual, Bakerview, Centennial, Chief Dan George, CORE, John Maclure, Mt. Lehman, North Poplar, Ross, South Poplar, School Board Office, STaRT, Ten Broeck, Terry Fox, Upper Sumas, W. A. Fraser, and W. J. Mouat.

The short-term action plan included several steps, including placement of temporary water coolers for all sites affected and deactivating drinking locations with elevated levels.

An independent consultant (Pinchin West Inc.) began additional testing on Friday, September 23rd. The report is expected in early October however preliminary results are as follows:

PRELIMINARY REPORT DISCUSSION:

21 Site testing has been broken into 4 categories:

1. Three Sites (ITC/Ross/South Poplar) can come off the list immediately, no elevated lead levels above guidelines were found in new testing
2. Two more sites (Terry Fox/CORE) can come off the list in the next week after confirmed further investigation, more info to be confirmed regarding the building
3. Five sites (Ten Broeck/SBO/Aberdeen/Mt Lehman/WA Fraser) require repairs when the Ministry funding is approved. Water entry passed from the city but failed in at least one branch pipe. Ongoing flushing program will continue.

4. Eleven sites require further investigation. They include Abby Arts, Abby Sr. (old section), Abbotsford Virtual, Aboriginal Centre, Bakerview, Centennial Park, Chief Dan George, John MacLure, North Poplar, W. J. Mouat and Upper Sumas. Ongoing flushing program will continue.

The District has applied to the Ministry for funding under the School Enhancement Program to deal with remediation, including replacement piping for sections that contain lead solder. Annual testing will be conducted for all 36 sites moving forward.

The website remains a source for staff, students, parents and the public. New information will be shared as it comes available.

RV:cm

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