

## LUND WATER UPDATE

December, 2025

Here's what's happening with Lund Waterworks and the current status of the Lund Water Upgrade project.

### Water System Upgrade Project

Work on the system upgrade is moving along. The qRD board has addressed outstanding issues with respect to scope and treatment system standards. Costs are being updated to reflect a revised construction schedule in order to ensure the most reliable estimates are available for community review. qRD staff are diligently pursuing additional grant funding in order to reduce the amount of money the community has to borrow and thus reduce the taxes. Discussions with Tla'amin Nation are ongoing. LWD personnel are assembling extensive historical and current data for the qRD *Comprehensive Utility Assessment* required as part of its Water/Wastewater Utility Acquisition Policy.

The cost recovery approach for collecting taxes is still undecided. Options include a flat parcel tax (same tax on every parcel) and a tax based on the assessed property value. The tax will apply to every parcel in the service area capable of receiving water from the upgraded system. It is expected Lund water users will have an opportunity to weigh in on this issue during the public engagement program.

### **Grant Funding Possibilities**

The grant approved under the ICIP program (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) is for a project having **total eligible costs** up to \$15,024,380 with the grant covering 73% to a **maximum** of \$11,017,378. Lund water property owners will have to borrow funds to cover the local 27% share of eligible costs plus 100% of ineligible costs and any other costs that may exceed the \$15M. The borrowing will be repaid through taxes charged to all properties capable of connecting to the upgraded system. Because of the high project costs, these taxes could be substantial. In an effort to reduce this taxation, qRD has submitted applications under various programs for further grants that would reduce the required borrowing: Provincial *Disaster Resilience and Innovation Fund* (DRIF) to offset costs for the dams, both preliminary engineering and capital works; Federal *Strategic Priorities Fund* for some planned capital works; *Watershed Securities Fund* for work related to watershed protection and restoration. Additional funds have yet to be approved, but some sources seem particularly promising. I am optimistic the qRD efforts will pay off to some extent - and to taxpayers' benefit.

Once scope and cost details have been confirmed and updated tax estimates prepared, the information will be presented at a community Open House planned for early 2026.

### Water Quality

**Bacteriological Sampling** for E.coli, total coliform, and fecal coliform is done regularly from eight sampling sites on a rotating basis plus directly from Thulin Lake. The standard for these parameters is <1ppm. Of the 114 samples Courtney took in 2025, one showed total coliform at 1ppm and one showed "background colonies" likely due to increased turbidity in the distribution system resulting from the leak repair at Harbour Edge Holdings. Re-testing when the work was completed indicated the water met the standards. While we may dislike the level of chlorine in our water, sampling results show the water consistently meets LWD permit requirements and provincial standards for these parameters, so the chlorine is doing its job.

**THMs** (trihalomethanes), a byproduct of chlorinating water with high levels of organics, unfortunately consistently exceed Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines. The attached federal government *Fact Sheet: Disinfection by-products in drinking water* explains the effects of THMs. Activated carbon filters can reduce concentrations. Solid block AC filters are particularly effective at removing most THMs and can be installed to treat all water entering a house. Filters on faucets are less effective but provide some removal. Aaron Vending in Powell River sells these products and can provide good information on your best options.

## [Water Quality Advisory in Effect](#)

A reminder that the Water Quality Advisory issued in May 2024 as directed by Vancouver Coastal Health remains in effect. The WQA will continue until the water treatment system is upgraded to include two levels of disinfection as required for surface water sources in BC. Upgraded treatment, which is not feasible on the existing system, is the **#1 priority** for the overall system upgrade. [A copy of the WQA notice is attached.](#) Please ensure any tenants or guests are aware of this situation. Businesses, including vacation rentals, serving the public, please post this notice on the premises.

## [What's ahead in 2026?](#)

**Website:** LWD will get its own website. While the intention is ultimately to transfer the system to the qRD, that will not occur until all upgrade work is completed, likely in 2-3 years. In the meantime, the website will allow users to readily access information on the status of the conversion process and capital work and on regular operations. We expect the site to be up and running by March.

**Tolls & Taxes Increases:** Tolls and tax increases are necessary in 2026 to cover rising costs for regular administration, operations and maintenance and to set aside funds to address failures in the aging infrastructure that may occur until the system is upgraded. The basic residential toll will increase from \$1,000 (2024 rate) to \$1,150, with corresponding increases to rates in other categories. A \$50 increase to the parcel tax is also planned. Details on the increases will be included with the Tolls invoices distributed in January.

**Bylaws Review:** Bylaws relating to costs, process, and requirements for new connections, some dating back to 1977, will be revised to ensure developers have clear direction on what is required of them, and to have developers, not other users, pay the costs associated with their development plans.

**Community Engagement - Open House:** As noted above, a comprehensive presentation on the system upgrade will be scheduled once all relevant information is available. To encourage broad participation we will provide written information beforehand and, hopefully, enable people to attend virtually.

**System Conversion Approval:** All going well, before the end of 2026 the process to obtain property owners' and possibly residents' approval of the upgrade plan, borrowing and taxation through petition or referendum will be completed. A positive result will allow the qRD to spend grant funds and the work to proceed!

## [REMEMBER - Time to Winterize](#)

The cold weather is here.

- Ensure your waterlines and pump fittings are adequately covered. ***Avoid leaving water running to prevent freezing.*** Spilling treated water increases chlorine costs and adds to pump wear and tear.
- Report changes in pressure to Courtney as this may indicate a leak.
- If you're going away for an extended period, turn off your water and your pumps and hot water tank.

## [Need information?](#)

Billing information and General Inquiries

Email [lundwaterdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:lundwaterdistrict@gmail.com) or Phone (1) 604.344.0469.

Kelly will respond to messages on Tuesdays, his regular day for working on Lund water business.

**In an emergency,** call our Water Operator, Courtney, at 604-483-1410.

As the Receiver, I will continue to deal with the upgrade project and serve as the ersatz board of trustees.

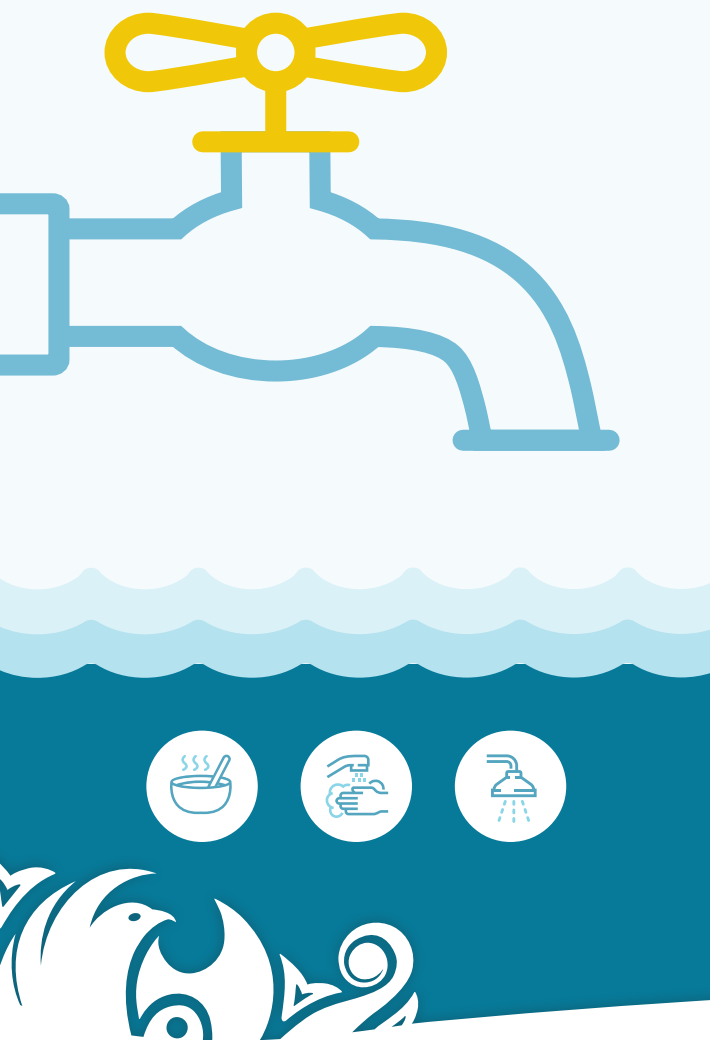
***The Last Word*** – A huge thank you to Courtney and Kelly for their exceptionally capable work throughout the year. We are so lucky to have them! Thanks, also to the Advisory Committee members who continue to provide valuable input on the upgrade project plans, always keeping the community interests in mind.

Happy New Year to all of you!

*Frances Ladret*, Receiver

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# Disinfection by-products in drinking water



Chlorine is the most commonly used drinking water disinfectant. It has been used to disinfect water and make it suitable for drinking for more than 100 years.

Chlorine has nearly eliminated diseases like typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery in Canada.



Disinfection by-products called trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) form naturally when chlorine combines with organic matter like leaves or other vegetation in water

## What you should know

If levels of disinfection by-products in your water are higher than recommended:



It takes many years of exposure to put your health at risk



You can be exposed by drinking affected water, bathing in it or breathing in steam produced by showering or any other activity that generates steam in an enclosed space



You don't have to stop using tap water. You can still brush your teeth, wash fruits and vegetables, use tap water to prepare foods and wash dishes and clothes



The benefits of disinfecting drinking water with chlorine are much greater than the potential health risks of being exposed to higher levels of disinfection by-products



THM and HAA levels tend to increase in summer and fall

## To reduce your exposure, you can



Ventilate the bathroom when bathing or showering



Take shorter baths, less than 30 minutes or showers, less than 10 minutes

Spend only a short time in any activity that generates steam in an enclosed space



Use a pour-over filtration water pitcher for drinking



Install a filter on your faucet or under your sink



Consider using water from another source





# WATER QUALITY ADVISORY (WQA)

## Lund Waterworks District is issuing a **WATER QUALITY ADVISORY** for the Lund Water System

### **THE CURRENT LEVEL OF TREATMENT DOES NOT MEET VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.**

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#### ***Treatment Deficiencies***

Current disinfection is chlorination only. A second barrier to disinfection, such as UV treatment, is required for surface water supplies in BC. Technical and financial barriers prevent installing UV treatment on the Lund system at this time.

Also, the lake water has high levels of organics, i.e., total organic carbon (TOC). Chlorine disinfection leads to elevated levels of chlorination by-products, including Trihalomethanes (THM). THM levels in Lund water regularly exceed the maximum allowable concentration in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

#### ***What does a Water Quality Advisory mean?***

A WQA means the risk is low; only some customers are advised take extra precautions when ingesting the water.

### ***Options to Reduce Risk***

People with weakened immune systems (which may include the young, elderly, immunocompromised, and pregnant women), and/or wishing additional protection are advised to take the following precautions when drinking, washing fruits & vegetables, making beverages or ice, or brushing teeth.

- 1. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute, or**
- 2. Use an alternate, safe source of water, such as bottled water.**

For more information email Courtney Robertson, Water Operator, at [courtney.robertson808@gmail.com](mailto:courtney.robertson808@gmail.com)

*See reverse for further WQA information.*

# Water Quality Advisory Information

## ***Why is a Water Quality Advisory being issued?***

Drinking water systems with a surface water source, like the LWD, are at risk of containing pathogens that can cause illness if untreated. The vast majority of these pathogens, like bacteria and viruses, can be adequately addressed using chlorine disinfection. Some pathogens, such as protozoan parasites, are present in surface water and are not easily disinfected by chlorine. For this reason, a second barrier to disinfection, such as UV treatment, is required for surface water supplies in British Columbia.

There are technical and financial barriers to installing UV treatment on the Lund system at this time; therefore, a WQA has been issued.

Further, total organic carbon (TOC) in the source water poses an ongoing challenge. TOC impacts the ability to treat the water to the full standard required and leads to elevated levels of chlorination by-products, including Trihalomethanes (THM). THM tests conducted by LWD, have revealed that THM levels regularly exceed the maximum allowable concentration (MAC) as per the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ).

## ***What does a Water Quality Advisory mean?***

A Water Quality Advisory means the risk is low, and only some customers are advised take extra precautions when ingesting the water. VCH information describes the difference between a Water Quality Advisory and a Boil Water Notice as follows:

**Water Quality Advisory** Used in situations in which the public health threat posed by the water supply system is modest, and actions can be taken to reduce the risks through means other than requiring a Boil Water Notice or Do Not Use Water Notice.

**Boil Water Notice** Used in situations in which the public health threat posed by the water supply system is significant and the nature of the threat is one that can be effectively addressed through boiling of the water.

Boil Water Notices are typically issued when the results of bacteriological testing indicate levels of e.coli or Total coliform that exceed Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines.

Please review the VQA carefully. If you have a vacation rental or other business serving members of the public, ***please post this notice on the premises*** so visitors are informed.

## ***Who should take extra precautions?***

Individuals with very weak immune systems are advised to take extra precautions. These can include: the young, elderly, immunocompromised and pregnant.

## ***What should these customers do?***

There are two options for individuals wishing to further minimize their risk.

1. Customers may bring water intended for drinking, washing fruits or vegetables, making beverages or ice, and brushing teeth to a full boil for 1 minute.
2. Customers may install a Point of Use or Point of Entry treatment device at their individual home for potable water use. A small water systems professional can provide advice on what type of unit will be suitable for your home. Alternatively, individuals may choose to use a different potable water source, such as bottled water, for these purposes.