

City of Prince Rupert

AT HOME WATER QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM





The Challenge

Like many B.C. communities, the City of Prince Rupert recognized the potential for higher than acceptable levels of lead in the City's drinking water. Independent testing by the school district and a directive from Northern Health prompted the City to take action.



The Solution

Working with Northern Health, the City launched the **At Home Water Quality Testing Program**, a proactive campaign to raise community awareness about the potential for lead in the drinking water and encourage homeowners to sign up for free testing of the water quality at their home.

The City posted its call for volunteers on <u>Rupert Talks</u>, its online engagement platform. From 160 volunteers, the City randomly selected 75 households.

News releases were issued to keep the community informed and an information flyer describing action homeowners can take was distributed to every household in the area.



The Good News

- 65 households have been tested and results show lead in the test households is from home plumbing, which can be replaced with CSA-approved lead-free options.
- More Prince Rupert residents have information about what they can do at home.
- The City received \$20 million in funding for upgrades to its water system and has confidence it is taking the right steps to ensure clean, safe drinking water.

"Carrying out the sampling program, and having the data, gives us the confidence we are taking the right steps, we aren't missing anything and we are doing the job we are meant to do."

> -Hans Seidemann, Building Services Manager, Operations, City of Prince Rupert

