



FACT SHEET

The City of Iqaluit is facing a water supply shortage issue. The City is confident that by being proactive and taking steps now to increase the amount of water in Lake Geraldine is the best way forward to address the issue. This will ensure the community has enough water for the winter and not wait to see if there is sufficient precipitation between now and October. In concert with the supplementary pumping, the city is reducing water loss and reducing water demand by finding and fixing leaks and inefficiencies within the utilidor system as well as water conservations measures including communicating water “wise” messages.

What Is the City Doing?

The City Council has directed the Staff to address the water supply issue and take the steps necessary to ensure the water supply is adequate for the coming winter. There are **four main areas** that the City is pursuing to address the issue.

1. A Water Loss Control Program: The City has repaired all known breaks in the water distribution system; reduced non-essential bleeds and is undergoing an inspection of all AV and then repairing any leaks. The City is actively assessing other city water infrastructure and processes to assess potential water reductions.
2. A Water Conservation Campaign: The City is conserving water in its own operations and is sharing messages to encourage the public to help in conserving water. Additionally, the City has identified commercial high water users and is engaging with them in water conservation strategies to reduce their water demand.
3. Supplementary Pumping: The City is pumping water from Apex River into Lake Geraldine and may pump from other nearby lakes, if necessary. Work crews are accessing the river via the Road to Nowhere and have situated the intake in the area near the sand pit. Pumps and hoses were mobilized with pumping started August 19. The Road to Nowhere area will be restricted during the pumping period to allow construction crews to access the pump site. The City has



determined that 60 days of pumping is needed to achieve the 400,000 m³ required to fill the reservoir.

4. Reverse Osmosis: To ensure an adequate water supply is available over the winter and to mitigate risks over the long term, a reverse osmosis unit is being considered for Iqaluit. The Government of Nunavut has a unit, currently out of Territory for servicing and have committed to making it available to Iqaluit.

General Questions and Answers

Q1: What is the water situation?

There have been lower precipitation levels over the past 2 years, combined with increasing population and development needing more water, resulting in the levels of water lower than normal in the Lake Geraldine Reservoir.

Older and failing infrastructure combined with climate change impacts have resulted in breaks resulting in loss of water, it is important that the reservoir is refilled before freeze up.

Q2: When did the city begin working on water supply?

The City has been aware of the need for additional water due to the projected and continued growth and development of the community since 2005. The City has initiated reports and has taken pro-active action to address the issue.

In 2006, the City increased the height of the Lake Geraldine dam to accommodate more water in the reservoir.

In 2013 and 2014 Supplemental water supply reviews were identified and reported back to city council.

In 2017, the development and initiation of a water Demand Management Strategy to deal with and develop water loss control and water conservation strategies for the city.

In 2018, Council approved over \$1 million dollars for supplemental water infrastructure and secondary water survey which includes a study to evaluate the option of a possible water supply at the Sylvia Grinnell river to supplement the reservoir. This project is underway and is being expedited to address a long-term, sustainable water supply solution.

The City has been and continues to be pro-active in looking for solutions.



Q3: What is the City proactively doing to ensure the community has sufficient water?

The City has engaged engineering experts who have identified steps to be taken at once to proactively ensure the City has the water it needs for the winter.

The City has contacted the regulators and our partners including the Government of Nunavut, the Federal Government and the Nunavut Water Board to update them and ensure all compliance with regulatory permitting and requirements.

The city has also struck a task force made up of officials from the City of Iqaluit, the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada as well as from our consultants to determine work to be done including pumping water from a nearby water source.

Q4: When will the pumping begin?

Pumping began on August 19 after all regulatory permitting and related requirement issues were addressed.

Q5: Is the new pool a major cause of the water shortage?

The new pool is not a major cause of water shortage. The pool water is on a closed system and the water is filtered, disinfected and recirculated.

Q6: What if we do nothing now and wait one more year and evaluate at that time?

Waiting is not the ideal option. Based on the current level of water along with unknown future precipitation this summer or fall, it is best to be proactive and ensure that community has sufficient water for the winter. The reservoir can only be filled before it freezes so ensuring adequate levels are there before freeze up is vital.

Q7: Is this the most cost effective and pro-active direction for the City to take?

The technical experts recommend this is the most cost effective and pro-active direction for the city to take and based on this council has decided to proceed with proactive measures.

Q8. Will the city be lobbying the federal government for climate change adaptation monies and or financial aid to assist because of this impact?



The city council unanimously passed a motion requesting the Mayor to lobby federal officials immediately to seek support and funding for the immediate and long term water requirements for the community.

Q9. I've heard that the City loses 40% of its water through its own failing infrastructure. Is this true?

This is not entirely accurate. While certainly there is the need to address infrastructure issues within the City's system, we have reduced all non-essential bleeds, repaired all known breaks and have inspected all our AV and repaired any leaks. The measuring of our water usage at the source, is different than how other municipalities monitor their water use, which is after treatment. As such, our reported loss was initially higher than others because it includes water that is used as part of the treatment process, and unmetered water, such as that used for firefighting and other emergencies.

Q10. What can I do to help this situation?

We can all benefit from being water wise, which includes monitoring our daily water usage. Car washes are currently banned, and the City is also following this ban except where required by health and safety (ambulances and firetrucks that have responded to a situation and require washing to prevent cross-contamination and the transfer of pollutants).

Questions re: Road to Nowhere Activity

Q. Why is the activity occurring now?

A. The Activity is occurring now so that the process of getting the extra water resources needed by the City for Lake Geraldine will be sufficient before annual freeze up.

Q. What kind of activity will be occurring?

A. There will be heavier volumes of vehicular traffic accessing the Road to Nowhere, as well as pumps, hoses and personnel on site to facilitate the laying of the needed hose lines and ongoing monitoring of the pumping operation.



Q. How Long will the pumping take place.

A. It is anticipated that 7-8 weeks will be needed to complete the pumping transfer of the needed water resources from the Apex River to Lake Geraldine

Q. Will pumping have to happen every year now?

A. The City is working on a water management plan to help alleviate the need for yearly pumping. However, lower precipitation levels on an on-going annual basis, are having a major impact on the City's available water resources.

Q. Is the City receiving any help from outside agencies or governments?

A. The City struck a "Task Force" consisting of personnel and representatives of the City, Territorial and Federal governments and departments as well as input from local agencies and regulatory bodies to manage and assist in dealing with the water shortage issue.

Q. What kind of assistance is being provided?

A. Logistic, administrative, regulatory, permitting and technical support have been provided to the city and its staff to manage the issue

Q. Should the public avoid the area?

A. The public should avoid the area past the bridge on the Road To Nowhere, the shooting range and the sandpit areas. That area is restricted to vehicles and personnel working on the pumping program.



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