

Overview

The Water Resources Management Division in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, is responsible for water resources management as per provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Act*.

The Water Resources Management Division:

- Operates and maintains hydrometric, climate and water quality networks
- Acts as a lead government agency in drinking water quality monitoring and reporting
- Regulates public water and wastewater systems
- Manages groundwater resources
- Regulates alterations of water bodies
- Manages allocation of water use and grants water rights
- Conducts water use studies for all sectors
- Provides flood forecasts & hurricane season flood alerts
- Provides operator education, training and certification to water and wastewater operators
- Participates in environmental assessments
- Coordinates the Dam Safety Program and dam inventory
- Conducts hydrological modelling studies & climate change flood risk mapping studies
- Acts as climate change lead for water resources
- Offers programs to protect, enhance, conserve, develop, control and effectively utilize the water resources of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Division has four sections, each headed by senior professionals with extensive expertise in water resources management. We employ engineers, scientists, technicians and clerical staff.

“We protect and promote a healthy and natural Environment.”

How to reach us:

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**Water Resources
Management Division**
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment


**Newfoundland
Labrador**

Water Resources Management Division — What We Do:

Water Rights, Investigations, and Modelling Section

Evaluates water use proposals and **issues water use licences** for domestic, commercial and industrial uses

Coordinates review and approval of any proposed **alterations to bodies of water**

Assesses and investigates **public complaints and flooding events**

Maintains on-line **Registry of Water Rights**

Conducts continuous water use **monitoring and reporting**

Evaluates referrals to determine water related **licences and permits** required for proposed activities

Develops **regulations, policies, and guidelines** for water planning and management

Provides **technical services** - locally, nationally, & internationally

Provides **floodplain management, permits, climate change flood studies, flood forecasting and flood response**

Evaluates proposals and issues permits for proposed developments in **designated floodplain areas**

Develops and implements Water Resources Management **tools, software, GIS and systems**

Maintains, analyzes and distributes water resources **data**

Develops **legislation, regulations, policies & guidelines**

Supports **Environmental Permitting System** and the **Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan** approach for drinking water safety

Manages and uses **remote sensing & GIS**

Drinking Water & Wastewater Section

Oversees the province's **Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan** for drinking water safety

Monitors and reports on **drinking water quality**

Issues approvals for the **design, construction, operation and maintenance** of community water and wastewater systems

Develops **regulations, policies, and guidelines** for drinking water and wastewater

Oversees designation of **Protected Public Water Supply Areas (PPWSAs)** including regulatory permits, inspections and investigations

Provides **education seminars, hands-on training and certification** for water and wastewater operators including operation of three Mobile Training Units (MTUs) to provide on-site training

Coordinates the **Dam Safety Program** and **dam inventory**

Water Agreements Section

Coordinates and maintains activities under **Water Quality, Climate and Hydrometric Agreements** with federal government and industry partners

Collects, analyzes and reports on **ambient water quality data**: physical and chemical properties, benthic macroinvertebrates and blue-green algae

Operates and maintains the **Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Network**, including station setup and maintenance, data collection, management and reporting

Reports on baseline water quality, variability and trends - tools include the **Canadian Water Quality Index, Risk Based Assessments and Data Trend Analysis**

Operates, assesses and maintains **hydrometric and climate** data collection networks

Conducts research and development into **innovative technology** for water quality monitoring and reporting

Develops **special studies** to address water quality issues

To access **real-time data** for water quality, hydrometric and climate stations:
https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Graphs_List.asp

Groundwater Section

Administers groundwater resources as part of the **Water Resources Act** and **Well Drilling Regulations**

Issues **well drillers' licences**

Issues permits for constructing **non-domestic wells** for public and semi-public water use

Oversees **Wellhead Protection Program**, including issuing permits

Conducts **groundwater studies**

Inspects and collects water quality samples from **public water supply wells**

Develops **policies and guidelines** to protect groundwater resources

Reviews **Groundwater Assessment Studies** for new subdivision developments using individual groundwater wells for drinking water supplies

For **Outreach and Educational Resources**, please visit our website: <https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/outreach/index.html>