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

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

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.

How to reach us:

St. John’s - Headquarters
Department of Municipal Affairs & Environment
4th Floor Confederation Bldg, West Block
PO Box 8700
St. John’s NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709.729.2563
Fax: 709.729.0320

Grand Falls-Windsor - Regional Office
Department of Municipal Affairs & Environment
Provincial Building
3 Cromer Avenue
Grand Falls-Windsor NL A2A 1W9
Phone: 709.292.4997
Fax: 709.292.4365

Corner Brook - Regional Office
Department of Municipal Affairs & Environment
9th Floor Sir Richard Squires Bldg
84 Mount Bernard Ave.
PO Box 2006
Corner Brook NL A2H 6J8
Phone: Drinking Water: 709.637.2542
Operator Training: 709.637.2035
Community Water: 709.637.2034
Water Quality: 709.637.2431
Fax: 709.637.2541

Happy Valley-Goose Bay - Regional Office
Department of Municipal Affairs & Environment
163 Hamilton River Road
PO Box 3014 Stn B
Happy Valley-Goose Bay NL A0P 1E0
Phone: 709.896.7981/5542

Email: water@gov.nl.ca
Web: https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/
## 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 an online 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, and internationally.
- Provides floodplain management, permits, climate change flood studies, flood forecasting and flood response.
- Evaluates proposals and issues permits for proposed developments in designated floodplains.
- 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.

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

To access real-time data for water quality, hydrometric and climate stations:

## 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.

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