
To: Water Committee

From: Linda Parkinson, Director, Policy, Planning & Analysis, Water Services

Date: October 8, 2025 Meeting Date: October 15, 2025

Subject: **Renewed Drivers for Advancing Water Metering in Metro Vancouver**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Committee receive for information the report dated October 8, 2025, titled “Renewed Drivers for Advancing Water Metering in Metro Vancouver”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Without universal metering, there is uncertainty about how water is being used in the region. Advancing residential water metering allows the identification of leaks and the implementation of active conservation measures, which support reductions in per capita water use, and enables accurate, data-driven decision making. Reductions in per capita water use allow both water and liquid waste utilities to serve more people with the existing infrastructure.

Despite being one of the last utilities of its size to meter drinking water at all residential properties, recently several members have adopted residential metering programs. The public supports metering, with recent polling showing a 5 to 1 preference for a user-pay model over flat-rate billing. Proposed strategies in the *Drinking Water Management Plan* update focus on advancing residential water metering by setting regional targets that individual members can advance. This regional commitment approach is the same as the one taken in the successful Drinking Water Conservation Plan – where Metro sets regional policy on water use restrictions and members manage through their respective bylaws.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to prepare the Water Committee for a Fall workshop on the *Drinking Water Management Plan* (DWMP) Update, by sharing information on the benefits of metering and outlining the drivers that have recently motivated some member jurisdictions to advance water metering more broadly in their jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND

The region's progress towards universal water metering has been slow despite many years of discussions and commitments. Water metering was mentioned very early in the 1886 Coquitlam Water Works Act as a tool to prevent water wastage and provide accurate accounting of water use. Over the years it was highlighted in regional initiatives, policies, and Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plans. Metro Vancouver has also conducted several studies to evaluate the regional cost/benefit of implementing metering which consistently showed a positive business case.

Without universal metering, there is uncertainty about how water is being used in the region. The 2021 Water Use by Sector (WUBS) report estimated that just over one third (35 per cent) of all water connections were metered and less than half of the region's total water consumption (48 per cent) was metered. This is very low relative to most water utilities of similar size and geography to Metro Vancouver, such as the Capital Regional District, the City of Abbotsford, and the City of Seattle in Washington state, all of whom have been metered for many years. In most water utilities the conversation has progressed from whether to install water meters to the benefits of switching from analog or manually read meters to smart meters because they achieve the most benefits for water system management with automated, real-time readings.

The benefits of metering include:

- Meters are the most effective way to detect leaks on the member/distribution system and abnormally high-water usage which is especially crucial during droughts and emergencies.
- Meters are the best way to identify leaks on the customer side – unless the leak is significant enough to rise to the surface and be visible.
- Metering supports water conservation initiatives by empowering end-users to understand their water usage and allows utilities to provide financial incentives and rebates.
- Metering supports equitable billing through a pay-by-use model.
- Meters enable member jurisdictions to implement more sophisticated rate structures and, if they choose, to charge different rates for different sectors (e.g. a reduced rate for the agricultural sector).
- Meters generate critical data by measuring how much and when water is used, which informs the effective management of a water utility.

There has been a recent increase in member jurisdictional support and activity around progressing metering. Some of these initiatives include approving voluntary metering programs, mandating requirements for metering on new buildings, as well as the development of metering strategies, and reports in support of metering to council. Examples of these include:

- City of Coquitlam approved the installation of meters on all single and multifamily developments submitting building permits after January 1, 2025.
- City of Burnaby approved a universal metering strategy that begins with mandatory metering on new homes and on existing homes with secondary suites or those that are meter ready.
- Township of Langley approved a voluntary metering program.
- City of Vancouver approved accelerating its universal metering program to be completed by 2040.

The update to the DWMP will support metering by setting regional targets that individual members can advance. This regional commitment approach is the same as the one taken in the successful Drinking Water Conservation Plan – where Metro sets regional policy on water use restrictions and members manage through their respective bylaws.

RENEWED DRIVERS FOR ADVANCING WATER METERING

Renewed drivers for metering have emerged in the past few years. These drivers include the need to plan effectively in the face of a rapidly growing population, meet recent Provincial zoning density demands, and being prepared for the impacts of climate change. Five renewed drivers are:

1. Metered member jurisdictions achieve reductions by addressing leaks

A water meter alone is just a device to measure the amount of drinking water being used. The data provided by water meters unlock many opportunities to efficiently manage the region's drinking water through identifying leaks and improving understanding of where to target conservation programs. Water meters allow for near real-time response to leakage and water main breaks, by helping to identify the size and location of the leaks. Water meters also enable proactive leak detection and repair to minimize the risk of significant system losses in situations where emergency conservation is needed, such as a prolonged drought or a significant water main break.

The initial reduction in water use achieved with a universal metering program is mostly through leak identification, followed by consumers changing their behaviour due to increased awareness of how much water they are using. Industry case studies from Metro Vancouver and other jurisdictions consistently show that water metering can result in savings of 15 per cent in as little as 3 to 5 years.

The common pattern of savings is as follows:

- System Improvements – fast and permanent savings:
 - **Identify private property leaks:** As soon as meters are installed water utilities can identify private property leaks. Although those leaks could be small and slow, they unfortunately go undetected for years and can waste a significant amount of water and cause property damage the longer they go unmanaged.
 - **Identify system leaks:** System losses/leaks can most readily and effectively be identified with universal metering. Together with private property leaks, losses can be 20 per cent, or more, of the region's high quality drinking water.
- Targeted Demand Reduction – behavioral shifts in water use:
 - **Implementation of pricing strategies:** Further demand reductions can be expected and achieved through effective pricing strategies, pricing structures can also be implemented to target peak demands, which drives the required size of infrastructure.
 - **Implementation of conservation programs:** Targeted conservation incentives and rebates can be used to target average day demand.

Table 1 on the following page uses data from the 2021 WUBS report to illustrate the savings in per capita water use achieved by a selection of member jurisdictions with varying levels of metering progress. A five-year rolling average of the highest residential water use is compared to the five-year rolling average in 2021 (both in litres per capita per day). The data demonstrates the effectiveness of metering in reducing demand, which is compounded when combined with conservation-oriented tiered pricing (as in the case of the District of West Vancouver).

Table 1: Percentage Reduction in Residential Water Use Per Capita Per Day

Jurisdiction	Percentage of Metered Connections		Residential Water Use (LPCD)		Percentage per Capita Water Use Reduction
	1995	2021	Highest Since 1995*	2021*	
LESS METERING PROGRESS					
City of Burnaby	5%	2%	337	289	14%
City of Vancouver	14%	24%	339	268	21%
MORE METERING PROGRESS					
City of Surrey	0%	80%	340	231	32%
City of Richmond	6%	98%	341	221	35%
UNIVERSAL METERING					
City of Langley ⁺	100%	100%	271	220	19%
District of West Vancouver (uses tiered pricing)	7%	100%	586	327	44%

*Five-year rolling average

+ City of Langley has been universally metered since at least 1987. Lower demand reductions are to be expected compared to the other jurisdictions shown that have progressed metering during the study period (1995 to 2021)

2. The financial case for metering is well established

Local and international case studies demonstrate that the savings associated with metering programs add up quickly. Many of the case studies in Metro Vancouver's 2019 Residential Water Metering Best Practices Guide show that metering programs provide a payback of about 10 years. The faster a metering program is implemented the faster the benefits accrue.

Metro Vancouver's 2019 Guide recommends implementation of universal residential water metering over a 10-year period by all member jurisdictions to yield the highest financial benefits to members and the region. For example, West Vancouver achieved a 12-year payback on its universal metering program. The City of Toronto achieved payback in six years by switching to smart water meters, which allow for enhanced data, precise billing, automated operations and efficient resource management. The City of Richmond staff found that leak detection and reduction in water use in the City has led to savings equivalent to the initial costs of their metering programs.

In addition to benefits to the water system, reducing demand on the wastewater system can lead to cost savings by extending the useful life of facilities and deferring the need for capacity expansions. Demand on the wastewater system is influenced by three key factors: dry weather flows (wastewater generated during dry weather), organic loadings, and wet weather flows. Historical data shows that water conservation efforts have successfully reduced dry weather flows, helping to accommodate some of the rapid population increase experienced. Continued emphasis on reducing indoor water use will help provide benefit to wastewater system costs.

3. Metering supports utilities to deal with the impacts of climate change and the growing population

The impacts of climate change over the past few years have been causing longer, drier, hotter and more unpredictable summers. The rain and snowmelt that is stored in the region's source reservoirs needs to last through the hot and dry summer months and every drop we can save counts. The accurate data provided by meters enables more accurate planning for the future and enables Metro Vancouver and its members to refine long-term planning in response to the uncertainty of climate change.

Additionally Metro Vancouver's population is growing faster now than it has historically, with 42,500 new residents (2025 population projections) expected each year compared to the historical average of 35,000. This increased population will increase the demand for drinking water and the infrastructure needed to deliver it. Reducing demand is important to ensure we have drinking water for the future where it's needed most: drinking, cooking, and cleaning.

Recently the City of Vancouver estimated that their system leakage rate is 20 per cent which is equivalent to \$20 million dollars of unused drinking water that they purchase annually. The City calculated that a 10 per cent reduction in the leakage rate will not only save city money, but it can result in supplying 7,000 new homes with the existing system capacity. Given the new provincial zoning rules around increased densification, reducing consumption through metering frees up water capacity to service new customers, without having to invest in new or upsized infrastructure. A key benefit of metering and associated policies is that it helps extend the useful life of existing built infrastructure and potentially defer future system expansions to accommodate population growth.

4. Metering enables fair and transparent pricing structures

Water metering plays an important role in ensuring all residents have fair and equitable access to high-quality drinking water. Metering helps prevent wastage and ensures that those who use more water contribute proportionally to its cost, to keep water rates affordable for all residents.

In Metro Vancouver, water use increases by over 50 per cent in the summer months mostly due to lawn watering, which is a discretionary use. The highest use residential households tend to be those with larger lots, automated irrigation systems, water features and/or pools. These high users tend to skew the average upwards so that most water users are below the average. With the flat-rate billing system low and average water users end up subsidizing the high-water users who tend to have expansive lawns and pools because everyone pays the same rate regardless of use. This is illustrated in Figure 1 below. Metering provides opportunities for a more equitable way to bill customers and allows them to make decisions to control how much they use and therefore the size of their bill.

Some member jurisdictions have raised concerns that metered billing structures unfairly penalize low-income households and households with bigger families who have higher-than-average indoor water use. These important concerns can and have been addressed by other utilities that have implemented universal water metering in Canada and the US. Solutions including the use of water metered pricing structures to ensure basic water needs are affordable or even free while higher usage is charged at a higher rate. Any pricing model can be structured to ensure financial subsidies/support programs are in place for those who cannot afford to pay, encourage conservation among those who can, and target the highest water users. Metro Vancouver is currently conducting a research project to review existing members' water rate structures, billing practices, and demographic data to identify equity and affordability concerns. The study will also investigate assistance programs for low- and fixed-income households and explore best practices from other jurisdictions to inform potential affordability initiatives.

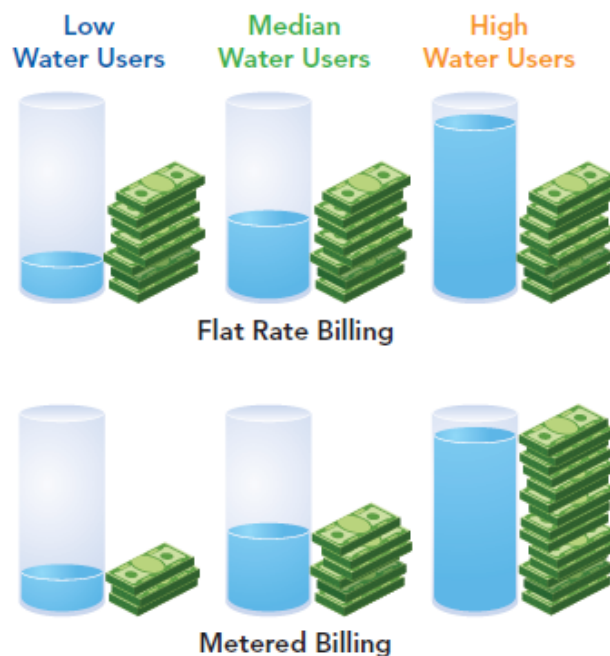


Figure 1: Typical Distribution of Residential Water Use

5. Water metering is supported by the public

Media coverage on drought conditions has drawn and sustained the public's attention on the low rates of metering across the region. Metro Vancouver has conducted public attitudes surveys to gauge the public's perception towards water metering. The first survey was done in 2017, and an update was completed in 2024. Both surveys showed very high levels of support, 86 per cent in 2017 and 84 per cent in 2024, for the concept of paying for drinking water based on usage versus flat rate. The 2024 survey respondents who support a pay-by-use model believe that such a system is more equitable, will increase user awareness of water use, and will provide an incentive to reduce water use. The survey found that most residents, close to 70 per cent, are in favor of requiring water meters in all new and existing homes.

Addressing concerns to implementing residential water metering

Many of the long-standing concerns to implementing residential metering programs in this region have been related to the cost of implementing and operating a metering program, concerns about potential financial impacts to low-income families, and uncertainty of additional conservation gains through metering. Above all, some members have indicated that they are facing competing priorities for the limited resources available to them, and that metering was not the most pressing concern given the impression that it did not offer a positive business case. For some, the perception is that we live in a rainforest, and meters are not necessary to manage water use. Despite these concerns the drivers discussed above show that these concerns can all be addressed. Case studies from Metro Vancouver and other jurisdictions demonstrate that metering systems typically pay for themselves within a decade. Tiered pricing structures and assistance programs ensure that rates remain equitable and affordable for all households. And as climate change continues to impact the region's water supply, it's clear that we can no longer rely solely on rainfall and that every drop we save counts.

CONCLUSION

Despite being one of the last utilities of its size to meter drinking water at all properties, recently several members have adopted residential metering programs recognizing its importance as a best management practice. Renewed drivers for implementing residential metering in the region include:

- Reductions in per capita water consumption allow for both water and liquid waste utilities to serve more people with the existing infrastructure.
- The financial case for metering is well established, with examples from other jurisdictions demonstrating significant long-term cost savings, improved demand management, and more effective infrastructure planning.
- Improved resilience to climate change and increased accuracy in utility planning by enabling data driven decisions.
- The ability to implement pricing structures that can enhance equity.
- Public support for metering, with recent polling showing a 5 to 1 preference for a user-pay model over flat-rate billing.

As population growth and climate change continue to impact water demand and supply, implementing metering and conservation strategies will be crucial for ensuring a reliable drinking water supply for Metro Vancouver.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation re: Renewed Drivers for Advancing Water Metering in Metro Vancouver

REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver, Water Services Department, Residential Water Metering in Metro Vancouver – Best Practices Guide for Local Government, issued August 2019.
<https://metrovancover.org/services/water/Documents/residential-water-metering-in-metro-vancouver-best-practices-guide.pdf>
2. Anthony, V. (2024). Water Use by Sector in Metro Vancouver: 2000 – 2021 Regional Results [Staff report to Water Committee meeting on 2024, April 3].
<https://metrovancover.org/boards/Water/WAT-2024-04-03-AGE.pdf#page145>



Capilano Reservoir during fall 2022

Renewed Drivers for Advancing Water Metering in Metro Vancouver

DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Linda Parkinson

Director, Policy, Planning & Analysis, Water Services

Water Committee Meeting, October 15, 2025
78529707

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AGENDA

- Background
 - Drinking Water Management Plan update
 - Regional water metering status
- Importance of water metering for the region
- Renewed drivers for advancing water metering in the region
- Addressing concerns
- Next steps



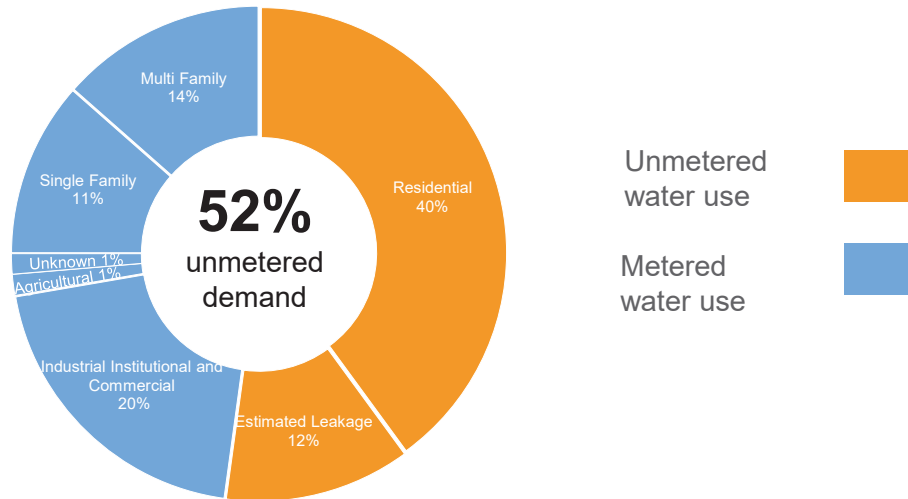
Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant

DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Topic	Timing
DWMP Proposed Strategies and Actions Report	June 11 ✓
Current Drinking Water Use Metrics and Status of Metering in the Region	Sept 17 ✓
Renewed Drivers for Advancing Water Metering	Oct 15
Factors That Influence Long-term Water Planning	Nov 12
DWMP Workshop for Water Committee feedback	Nov 26

THE REGION IS BEHIND ON METERING

Over half of the region's water use is unmetered

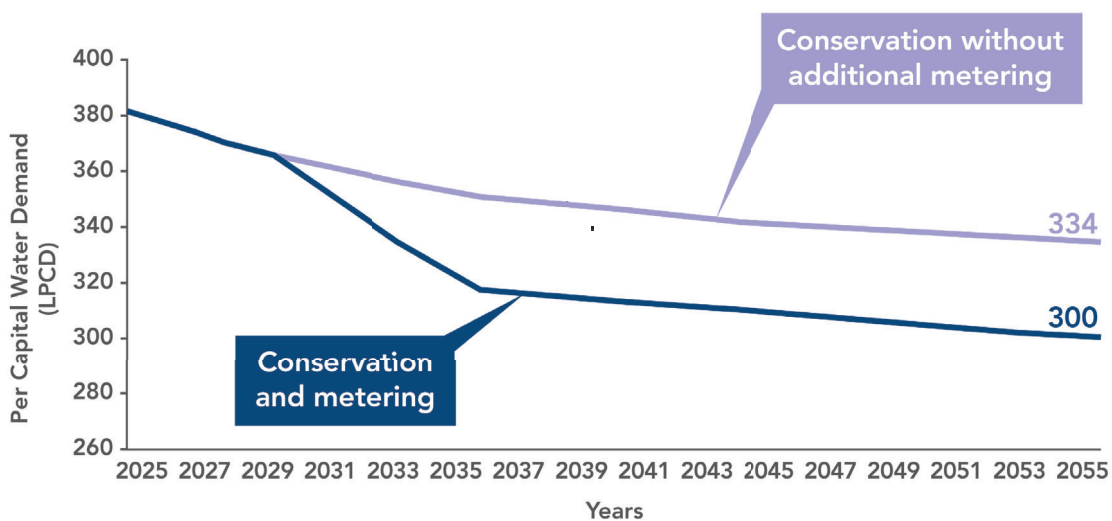


WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

- Growing population: over 40,000 people per year
- Hotter, drier summers already here
- Billions needed for new and upsized infrastructure across water and liquid waste utilities if we don't act

WHY CONSERVATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH

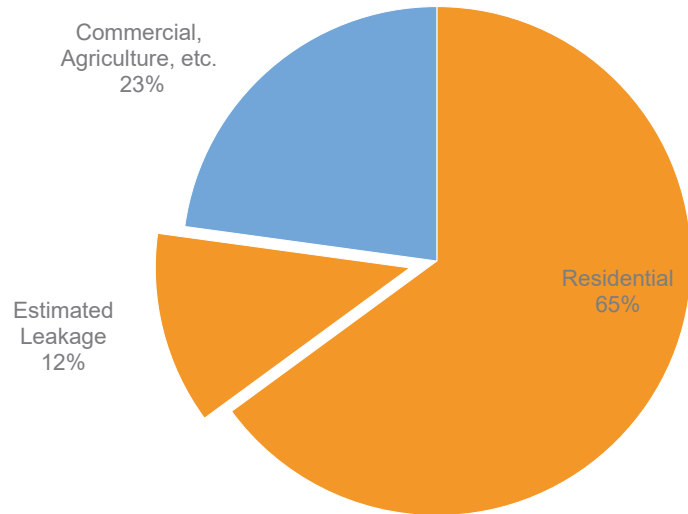
Conservation measures can't keep up with growth



Results from Metro Vancouver Drinking Water Conservation Potential Study 2025

WHY FOCUS ON RESIDENTIAL WATER USE

- An estimated 65% of the water is used in homes and 12% is reported as lost to leaks
- Climate change impacts, aging infrastructure, and increasing demand make efficient water management urgent



Capitane Reservoir during fall 2022

RENEWED INTEREST IN ADVANCING WATER METERING

Burnaby approves multimillion-dollar plan for water meters in homes, pay-for-use coming 2027

Staff say universal water metering will lead to a 'significant reduction in overall water demand.'



Water metering is already working in some B.C. municipalities. Why isn't it universal?

You may have to pay to spray as Vancouver considering water metering for all homes, buildings

Dan Fumano: Only 13 per cent of Vancouver's single-family homes have metered water connections. West Vancouver has universal water metering, which has been associated with a 45 per cent reduction in demand.

B.C. drought woes spur call for universal water metering



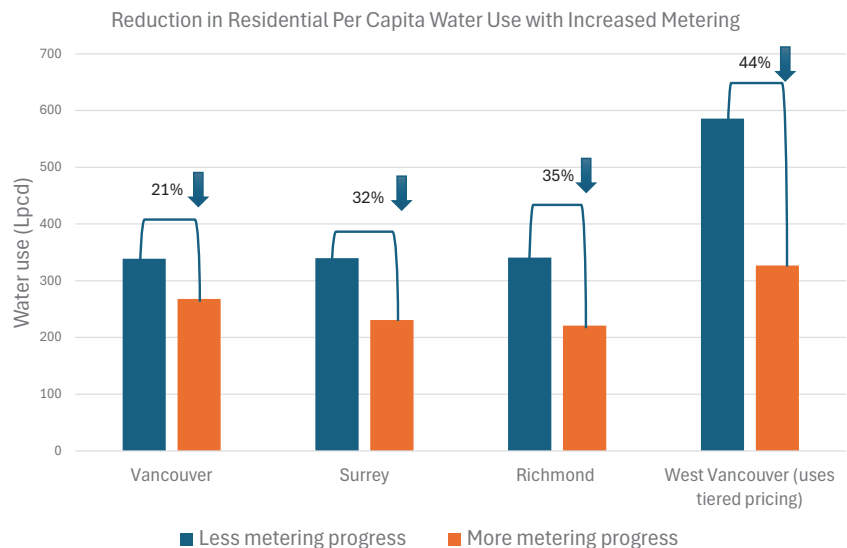
By Simon Little & Kylie Stanton · Global News
Posted March 6, 2024 8:42 pm · Updated March 7, 2024 7:24 pm · 3 min read

Township of Langley Launches Voluntary Water Meter Program

Posted on Tuesday, February 25, 2025

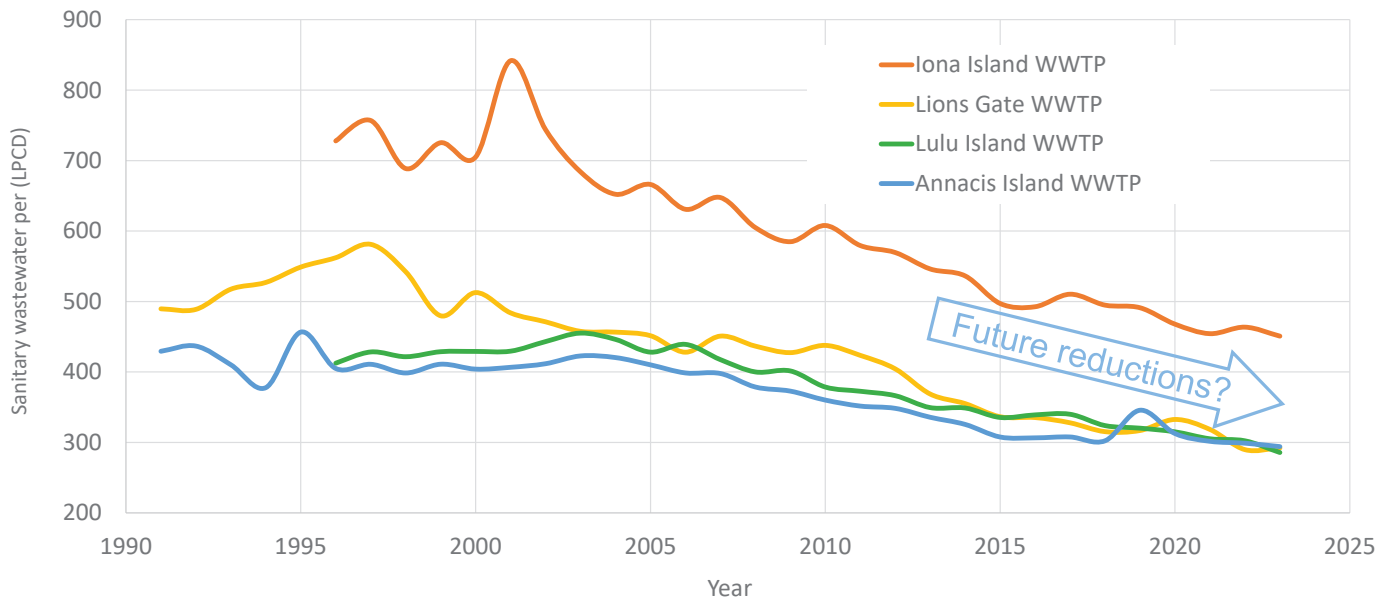
FIND LEAKS FAST AND SAVE WATER

- Leaks waste +20% of drinking water
- City of Vancouver estimated \$20M annually in drinking water losses
- Additional savings will be achieved through more targeted water conservation initiatives



REDUCE WATER USE TO GET MORE OUT OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Wastewater Treatment Plants

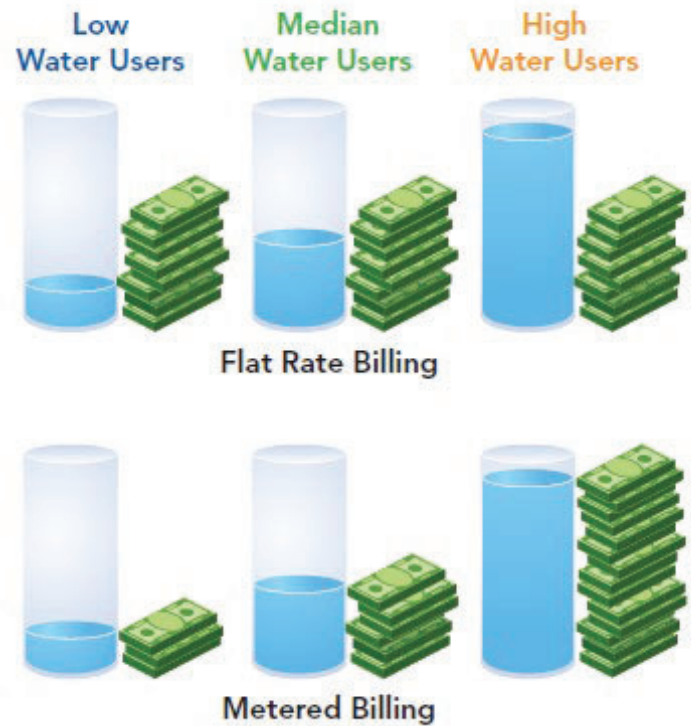


BUILD RESILIENCE TO GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Region growing by over 40,000 residents each year
- Summers are hotter, drier, and longer
- Cutting leaks will:
 - Make water available for new homes
 - Allow both water and liquid waste to serve more people with existing infrastructure

MAKE BILLING FAIR AND TRANSPARENT

- Flat rates: everyone pays the same, regardless of use
- Low and average users subsidize the highest users
- Meters ensure people pay for what they use, giving households control

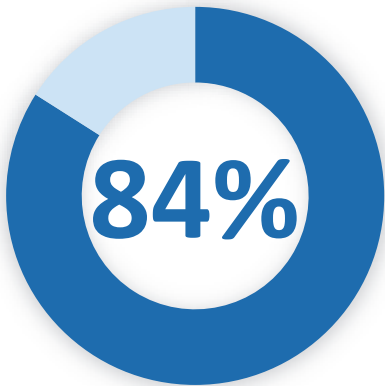


ENABLE DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

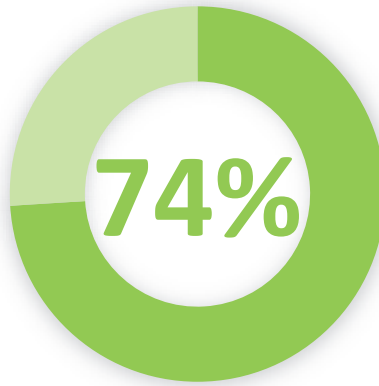
Obtain accurate information for planning

- Over half of Metro Vancouver's water use is unmetered
- Meters provide reliable data on water use and losses
- Better data leads to better information to enable more cost-effective decision making

PUBLIC SUPPORT IS ALREADY THERE

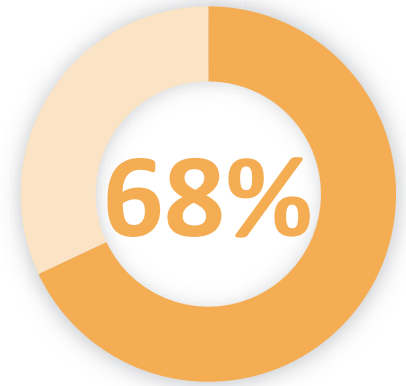


Support pay-for-use model



Use less water under a pay-for-use model*

*respondents already metered



Favour requiring water meters in all homes

Source: Water Metering Opinion Survey, Justason Market Intelligence Inc., April 2024



ADDRESSING CONCERNS

Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant

ADDRESSING CONCERNS

- **Cost to implement a metering program:** Programs pay back in ~10 years; faster with smart meters
- **Equity:** Tiered rates and assistance programs protect equity and affordability
- **Rainforest myth:** Hotter, drier summers mean every drop counts

WHAT'S NEXT

From Draft to Final Plan

Item	Timeline
Water Committee Workshop	November 2025
Finalize DWMP	December 2025
Final DWMP review with the public, First Nations, REAC WSC, REAC, and RAAC	Q1 2026
Water Committee and GVWD Board adoption	Q2 2026



Questions

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To: Water Committee

From: Inder Singh, Director, Interagency Projects & Quality Control, Water Services

Date: October 7, 2025 Meeting Date: October 15, 2025

Subject: **Health Canada PFAS Guidelines**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Committee receive for information the report dated October 7, 2025, titled “Health Canada PFAS Guidelines”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are persistent chemicals found in various products and have raised environmental and health concerns. This includes the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies; however, given Metro Vancouver’s protected water supply areas, the local risk of PFAS exposure through regional drinking water supplies is minimal.

Health Canada updated the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* in August 2024, introducing a new PFAS objective, as well as expanding the list of parameters from two to twenty-five. In response, Metro Vancouver updated its PFAS testing and reporting protocols to include the additional parameters. PFAS has been below standard detectable limits in its sources, and treated water entering the transmission system, since testing began in 2020.

There are established treatment processes that may be implemented should PFAS contamination become a concern in the future as a consequence of evolving research and water quality standards.

PURPOSE

To provide an update on Health Canada’s PFAS guidelines and implications for Metro Vancouver’s drinking water supply system.

BACKGROUND

PFAS are a large group of synthetic chemicals that have been widely used for several decades in both industrial processes and consumer products. These substances are commonly found in surfactants, lubricants, and repellents for dirt, water, and grease, as well as in textiles, cosmetics, food packaging materials, and firefighting foam. Some potential sources of PFAS are shown in Attachment 1. Due to their strong chemical bonds, PFAS compounds are highly persistent and stable in the environment and tend to bio magnify in food chains, breaking down very slowly over time. As a result, they are often referred to as “forever chemicals.”

Due to their widespread use over an extended period, PFAS are now found throughout the environment, including water, air, soil, and in the bodies of humans and animals. Exposure to PFAS over a long period of time has been linked to serious health effects such as cancer, as well as impacts on the liver, kidneys, reproductive and developmental systems, nervous system, and metabolism. Certain health risks can be more prevalent during critical life stages such as pregnancy or early childhood.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Drinking water supplied by Canadian water providers must typically meet the Maximum Acceptable Concentrations (MACs) outlined in the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* (GCDWQ). In 2018 and 2019, MACs were only introduced for two PFAS compounds, specifically, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluoro octane sulfonate (PFOS), established at 200 ng/L (nanograms per liter, or parts per trillion) and 600 ng/L, respectively.

In August 2024, the GCDWQ implemented a new interim objective, recommending that the total concentration of 25 specified PFAS compounds should not exceed 30 ng/L, and that treatment facilities should aim to keep PFAS levels in drinking water as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). This interim objective is a precautionary measure to reduce PFAS exposure as Health Canada develops more definitive health-based guidelines.

Although the BC provincial *Drinking Water Protection Act* and *Drinking Water Protection Regulation* do not make reference to PFAS, it is prudent for Metro Vancouver to be in alignment with the federal GCDWQ and be aware of evolving regulations in the United States. In April 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) finalized its *National Primary Drinking Water Regulation* limits for five individual PFAS parameters, plus a hazard index level for a mixture of PFAS parameters. Implementation of these regulations is being phased in over a period of a few years.

METRO VANCOUVER SOURCE WATER

Metro Vancouver's drinking water originates from three protected water supply areas: Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam, primarily fed by rainfall and snowmelt. The practical risk of PFAS exposure is primarily from atmospheric deposition from industries using PFAS substances, which do not exist in the vicinity of Metro Vancouver's water supply areas.

Testing for PFAS has been conducted since 2020, and results have consistently shown that PFAS are below standard detectable limits in the source water from the three reservoirs, and treated water entering Metro Vancouver's transmission system. This applies to both the original MACs established for PFOA and PFOS, as well as the recently updated objective.

TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

There is a potential concern that Metro Vancouver drinking water transmission and member jurisdiction distribution system water mains and associated appurtenances, such as valves and other fittings, could contribute to PFAS contamination through a leaching process should they contain PFAS materials.

In Canada and the United States, drinking water system components should be certified to the National Sanitation Foundation *NSF Standard for Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects* (NSF/ANSI/CAN 61). This bi-national standard addresses chemical contaminants and impurities that may be indirectly introduced into drinking water through products, components, and materials used in water systems. These include pipes and fittings, protective barrier materials, joining and sealing materials, mechanical devices like valves and water meters, plumbing devices, and process media. The NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 standard establishes minimum requirements for the control of potential adverse human health effects, which are constantly evolving as new testing information becomes available in alignment with national drinking water standards. The current standard updated in 2024 establishes PFAS requirements for PFOA and PFOS, and is effective until January 1, 2028, after which analysis for additional PFAS parameters are anticipated.

It is typical that all components of Metro Vancouver's transmission system and member jurisdiction distribution systems are required to be certified to meet NSF/ANSI/CAN 61, ensuring PFAS exposure from these potential sources is minimized, or eliminated.

TREATMENT AND REMOVAL

Metro Vancouver's existing source water treatment processes are not designed for PFAS removal. Currently, assessments are underway regarding emerging contaminants in the water supply areas and PFAS is not considered to pose a significant risk. There are established treatment options such as granular activated carbon (powered activated carbon is also effective), membrane filtration (reverse osmosis and nanofiltration), and anion exchange should PFAS contamination become a greater concern in the future. Chemicals added to treat the drinking water are required to be certified to meet NSF/ANSI/CAN 60, *NSF Standard for Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals – Health Effects*, which establishes PFAS requirements to minimize exposure risk.

When implementing PFAS treatment technologies, a cradle-to-grave system should be implemented in accordance with industry best practice to avoid reintroducing PFAS contaminants back into the environment. For instance, this may include high-temperature reactivation/destruction of PFAS contained in adsorptive media used for treatment. PFAS removal and destruction is the subject of considerable ongoing research by the water industry and academia.

The Government of Canada, under Canada's *Chemicals Management Plan*, is managing the risk posed by PFAS to people and the environment. This includes the consideration of adding PFAS as a general class of substances (excluding fluoropolymers that are still being assessed) to the list of toxic substances in Schedule 1 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, and a phased prohibition of PFAS compounds over the short, medium and long-term.

CONCLUSION

PFAS substances present a significant environmental and public health concern due to their persistence and widespread use in various products. Although these chemicals have been identified in water, air, and soil, the current risk of PFAS contamination of Metro Vancouver's drinking water supply is minimal.

Regular testing of Metro Vancouver's source waters and water entering the transmission system for PFOA and PFOS has been conducted since 2020. In August 2024, Health Canada updated the GCDWQ with a PFAS objective expanding the parameter list from the original two compounds to 25 compounds. In response, Metro Vancouver expanded its testing protocol, and all results to-date have been below standard detectable limits. Drinking water quality standards for PFAS are evolving, and both Health Canada and US EPA requirements are being monitored by Metro Vancouver staff.

Currently, there is no significant PFAS risk to Metro Vancouver water supplies. There are established treatment technologies that can be implemented should PFAS contamination become a concern in the future. Federal government agencies are also promoting the elimination of PFAS compounds by working with industry to phase out production in the marketplace and find suitable alternatives.

ATTACHMENT

1. Potential Sources of PFAS.

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