

From: Minister, MECP (MECP) <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>

Sent: December 21, 2020 2:44 PM

Subject: Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water 2020 and 2019-2020 Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report / Le rapport annuel 2020 du ministre sur l'eau potable et le rapport annuel 2019-2020 de l'inspectrice en chef de l'eau potable

Ontario is taking action through our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan to protect the province's drinking water and water resources now and for future generations. We are committed to ensuring that our water is safe to drink and that it continues to be among the best protected in the world.

In support of this work, I'm pleased to release [my 2020 annual report](#) on the work Ontario is doing to protect our drinking water and water resources in the province.

The 2019-20 data shows that 99.9 per cent of more than 523,000 test results from municipal residential drinking water systems met Ontario's stringent drinking water quality standards.

Today, the ministry also released the [Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report](#), which provides an overview of the ministry's progress during 2019-20 and includes in-depth information on the performance of Ontario's drinking water systems and licensed laboratories.

These reports highlight the province's strong drinking water and wastewater monitoring, reporting and enforcement activities and programs and how these actions and those of our partners are effectively safeguarding Ontario's drinking water.

The reports also provide an overview of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' COVID-19 pandemic response to ensure the continuity of operations at water and wastewater systems across the province.

Throughout the uncertainty and instability that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, the ministry's top priority has been to protect human health and the environment. We continue to work to help ensure continued access to water services and to clean, safe drinking water for all Ontarians and work collaboratively with other ministries to help address any COVID-19 related challenges. This work will help ensure that water system owners and operators, schools, daycares, businesses, individuals, First Nations and other stakeholders have the supports that they need to play their part in the continued delivery of safe drinking water and water services.

As a province, we have made significant progress over the past year, but we recognize there is more work to be done. That is why we are taking steps to review our current policies and consult on further actions to reduce levels of lead in drinking water. In 2021, we will consult the public on whether and how to adopt Health Canada's updated guideline for lead in drinking water, which reduces the maximum acceptable concentration of lead in drinking water from ten to five micrograms per litre. We will also consult on proposed enhancements to Ontario's already stringent lead protection framework and increasing transparency in lead testing results to keep parents and the public well informed.

Working with our partners, our strong protection framework will continue to help ensure our drinking water is held to Ontario's high safety standards.

Visit ontario.ca to see the supporting [drinking water quality and enforcement data](#).

Sincerely,

Jeff Yurek,
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks