



## LEAD CONTENT IN DRINKING WATER POLICY STATEMENT - 3010

The Community Education Authority acknowledges its obligation to ensure that the lead content of drinking water in its school facilities meet established guidelines under applicable provincial and federal legislation. Reasonable steps necessary to resolve lead levels that are outside established guidelines must be taken on any Chalo School drinking water quality test results.

Student health and safety is a concern shared by all parties in the K4 -12 education system. This policy provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of school facilities, reporting of the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff.

Chalo School was built in 1993 and followed Canadian Drinking Guidelines and applicable building code during construction. No lead pipes or fixtures were knowingly used in its construction. Drinking water is drawn from the Muskwa River and supplied by the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality. The municipality maintains the comprehensive water treatment center that supplies potable water to Fort Nelson First Nation.

Water systems on reserve are maintained by the Fort Nelson First Nation Public Works department, and monitored by the First Nations Health Authority. Fort Nelson First Nation completes annual comprehensive water chemistry testing that is inclusive of water total metal chemistry. Fort Nelson First Nation collects water chemistry testing samples, which are submitted to, and tested by the First Nations Health Authority.

If sample results reveal lead levels exceed concentration of 0.010 mg/L (based on maximum allowable concentration-- [Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality](#) by Health Canada), the Fort Nelson First Nation, in consultation with the First Nations Health Authority, will undertake mitigation strategies, which may include:

1. Flushing regimes
2. Investigation of plumbing upgrade
3. Plumbing upgrades
4. Or other steps that result in reducing the lead concentration to acceptable levels

In the event that testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, Chalo School will:

- Immediately inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue;
- Work collaboratively with the First Nations Health Authority to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water to parents, students and staff by describing the following;
  - ✓ Rationale for testing lead in drinking water,
  - ✓ Identify partnership with the First Nations Health Authority to work toward a solution,
  - ✓ State results of sampling,
  - ✓ Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered.



Chalo Independent School Society

## Lead Content in Drinking Water Policy Statement

***For more information contact:***

***Fort Nelson First Nation Band Office***

Mile 295 Alaska Highway, Fort Nelson, B.C. V0C 1R0

Public Works Manager - 250-774-7257

***First Nation Health Authority (Northern)***

#101-10130 - 100th Ave, Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 1Y6

Environmental Health Officer - 250-787-7681

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Chalo Independent School Society

Lead Content in Drinking Water Policy Statement

Dated at Fort Nelson, British Columbia on: September 12 2019

Approved, Signed, Sealed and Delivered by the Chalo Independent School Society Community Education Authority (Board).

*Chrystal Fincaryk*

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