



Making a difference...together

Integrated Water Services
479 Island Highway
Victoria, BC, Canada V9B 1H7

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Date: September 2, 2020

Re: Water Quality Advisory for Lyall Harbour Boot Cove Water System

Dear Resident:

You are receiving this notice because this property is served by the Lyall Harbour Boot Cove drinking water service. The Lyall Harbour Boot Cove drinking water service is experiencing elevated concentrations of disinfection by-products (trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids) associated with the reaction between chlorinated water and organic materials such as wood and leaves found naturally in the source water from Money Lake and nearby ground-seepage. The level of these disinfection by-products in the treated water can vary over time and depends on the amount of organic material in the source water, the chlorine concentration applied for water disinfection, and the contact time of free chlorine and organic compounds in the treated water.

There is no immediate risk to your health. Health effects from disinfection by-products are associated with consumption of high levels above the maximum thresholds for many years or decades and the elevated levels for Lyall Harbour Boot Cove are a recent phenomenon. Health Canada has set a maximum allowable concentration for trihalomethanes at 100 parts per billion (ppb) and the current levels are 100.5 ppb. The maximum allowable concentration for haloacetic acids is 80 ppb and the current levels are 98 ppb. A list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding these compounds is included with this letter.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is working on strategies to reduce the concentration of these disinfection by-products while balancing the need to continue disinfection and ensure treated water is free of bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. Short term, medium term and long term strategies are being developed in consultation with Island Health. The timeline for medium and long term solutions will be contingent on available funds. The CRD will continue to provide information directly to residents as the issue is addressed, and updated information will be available on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/lyallboot-ws.

If you have any immediate concerns or questions, please contact the CRD (Matt McCrank, 250.360.3647 or by email mmccrank@crd.bc.ca) or Island Health at gateway_office@viha.ca.

Sincerely,

Ted Robbins
General Manager, Integrated Water Services