



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

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April 20, 2016

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

During the 2016 Spring Break, School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) tested the water at our schools and facilities to determine water quality. These tests were conducted when the schools were not being used and after the water had sat in the pipes for an extended period of time. The results showed the following schools had lead at levels that exceeded the maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) under the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*:

- A.J. Elliott Elementary School;
- Eagle View Elementary School;
- Fort Rupert Elementary School;
- North Island Secondary School; and
- Port Hardy Secondary School.

Lead is a metal that occurs naturally in the environment and was commonly used in plumbing materials. Any building constructed before 1990 is of particular concern. Since then, the building code changed and plumbing materials using any form of lead pipe or solder in plumbing systems that carry our drinking water were no longer used.

District personnel are working with Island Health to determine ways to effectively reduce the potential of lead in drinking water such as through the implementation of flushing programs which have been shown to reduce lead levels well below the Health Canada guidelines.

School District No. 85 is committed to ensuring the drinking water provided to students and staff through all its schools and facilities is safe. As such, water fountains in the affected schools will be deactivated until control measures can be implemented, and retesting done that shows the drinking water provided is safe to consume. In the interim, children and staff are advised to obtain drinking water from other sources, such as from their home or bottled water.

For more information on lead go to the Health Canada website at:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/contaminants/lead-plomb/asked_questions-questions_posees-eng.php

The District will keep you informed as further information becomes available.

Respectfully,

Dr. Scott Benwell
Superintendent of Schools