



## TESTING DRINKING WATER FOR LEAD CONTENT POLICY

Summit Academy acknowledges its obligation to ensure that the lead content of the drinking water in its school facilities meets 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 drinking water quality test results.

Student health and safety is a concern shared by all parties at Summit Academy. 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. The building in which Summit Academy occupies was built in year 1999 and followed the Canadian Drinking Guidelines and applicable building codes during construction.

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (“RMOW”) has the ability to obtain its water from numerous sources:

### Surface Water

- Twenty-One Mile Creek

### Groundwater

- Emerald Estates Wells (3)
- Community Wells (4)
- Alpine Meadows Wells (3)
- Twenty-One Mile Creek Aquifer Well (2)
- Function Junction Wells (2)
- Cheakamus Crossing Well (1)

The RMOW uses both a surface water intake, and groundwater wells to provide domestic drinking water and fire protection supply for the municipality. The Twenty-One Mile Creek surface water intake comprised 37% of the water used in the distribution system in 2018, making it the largest single source. The Community water system, of which the Twenty-One Mile Creek intake is a part, supplied 94% of Whistler’s potable water in 2019 with the remainder being supplied by the Emerald Estates water system.

**Monitoring Program by RMOW** - The groundwater sources are monitored annually by geotechnical and hydrogeological consultants. The RMOW’s Groundwater Resource Protection Plan requires annual analysis of groundwater and monitoring wells for potable water quality parameters and Potential Contaminants of Concern (PCOCs). The annual report from year 2019 is attached and on file in the Summit Academy’s administration office.

RMOW completes annual comprehensive water chemistry testing that is inclusive of water total metal chemistry, which includes measurements for lead. RMOW collects water chemistry testing samples, which are submitted to, and tested by



third party consultants. 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 RMOW in consultation with the geotechnical and hydrogeological consultants, will undertake mitigation strategies, which may include:

1. Flushing regimes
2. Investigation of plumbing upgrade
3. Plumbing upgrades

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

- Immediately inform the Ministry of Education of the issue
- Work collaboratively with RMOW 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 RMOW to work toward a solution
  - State results of sampling
  - Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered
- Fresh, bottled water will be provided to all students until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of Summit Academy, RMOW, and the Ministry of Education

**Summit Academy will test the water at their school facility annually through a third party and provide the report to the Ministry of Education by March 30 of each year. Testing will be provided by:**

EDS Pumps & Water Treatment  
23184 Fraser Highway  
Langley, British Columbia V2Z 2V1  
Tel (604) 534-1115  
Email: [water@edspumps.com](mailto:water@edspumps.com)

Ongoing monitoring visits and external evaluations will confirm compliance with this policy. Testing results will be recorded by using the [Ministry of Education's Independent Schools Drinking Water Reporting Tool](#) (website below) and updated as part of the ongoing testing cycle outlined above.

<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/education-training/indy-web-form/>