



**THE VILLAGE OF SILVERTON**

Press Release

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

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# VILLAGE OF SILVERTON WATER TESTING BACK ON TRACK

INITIAL WATER TESTING RESULTS SHOW NO ISSUES WITH VILLAGE WATER; PROACTIVE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO AVOID POTENTIAL FUTURE ISSUES

Initial results of Village of Silverton water sample testing by Interior Health have painted a positive picture for residents concerned about local water quality.

Plenty of questions have arisen since the Village first learned of noncompliance with provincial water regulations, and deficiencies in internal processes, as part of a Village-initiated operations review.

Through the review, it became clear there were issues in how certain Village operations were being undertaken. As soon as the Village learned of the noncompliance, the organization began working collaboratively with Interior Health to rectify the situation, with the regulator taking action to assess and maintain the safety and quality of the Village water system.

Interior Health immediately began testing Village water samples. Initial results from those tests have proven promising, with acceptable bacteria levels found to date. These results, along with all other sample reporting, are posted publicly by Interior Health.

“When we learned of noncompliance related to water sample testing, it wasn’t a red flag that there was anything wrong with our water — it just meant the Village hadn’t been sending samples for testing as is required, and that’s not OK,” said Viv Thoss, Chief Administrative Officer for the Village of Silverton.

“We acted as quickly as possible in working with Interior Health to get our water testing back on track, and these early results are just such a relief. It’s sad that regulations weren’t followed as required, resulting in so many concerns arising in the community. However, we are rectifying the situation, and have already seen progress taking place.”

Moving forward, the Village is working to ensure these sorts of issues won't happen again, as the CAO works to review Village water testing procedures, and to implement processes to ensure that all regulations are met.

Additionally, the Village has committed to increased proactive testing with Interior Health, and are reviewing all local water system plans to ensure they are accurate and current, and that they serve the Village appropriately.

"This is a really unfortunate situation, but it's been nice to see how quickly everyone has moved to make sure that things get back on track, including our CAO and the team at Interior Health," said Mayor Colin Ferguson. "It's encouraging, too, to see that we're going to be far better served coming out of this, and I want to thank the vast majority of residents for being patient and understanding as we continue to work through this process."

As more testing results are made public, Thoss wants to remind residents that local water is safe to drink, and that updates will continue to be made public as the situation progresses.

"The one positive that's come from this whole situation — if there is one — is that it's been nice to hear how much people really do love our water," Thoss said. "One person even said the quality of our water was the reason they moved to Silverton!"

"We know the water here really is great, but hearing it so wholeheartedly from residents reinforces for everyone just how important it is to get things back on track, and to move past this unfortunate scenario."

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact the Village of Silverton at 250-358-2472.

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**For More Information:**

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