



December 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Re: The New Health Canada Lead in Drinking Water Guideline**

Health Canada released a new national guideline for lead in drinking water in March 2019. The guideline lowered the allowable levels of lead in drinking water, from 0.01 mg/L (milligrams per litre) to 0.005 mg/L (milligrams per litre).

In September 2020, the Office of the Auditor General released their report on the “Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety”. The report recommends that the province require all schools and childcare centres to promptly, and periodically thereafter, test for lead, and that the department of Conservation and Climate publicly report the results of these tests and corrective actions taken. In August of 2021, the Department of Education provided direction and access to funding for school divisions to perform testing.

To this end, we have conducted tests of all water fountains and faucets to ensure lead levels meet the current guideline in both Happy Thought and East Selkirk Middle Schools.

Water testing recently conducted identified some non-filtered water sources that exceeded acceptable lead levels. Those fountains and faucets were either taken out of service or had “do not drink” signs posted. All of our water fill stations have filters and passed the water tests.

We have been working with the RM of St. Clements and believe the source may be coming from hardware that is very specialized within our service connection. The RM of St. Clements also wants to assure all residents that the standard 5/8 inch connection which is used in residential connections have been tested at the RM Office and Canada Post Office and have not shown to contain these lead levels. We are working urgently to have this hardware replaced as soon as possible.

Information about lead, including health risks can be found at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking\\_water/rld\\_homechildcare.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/rld_homechildcare.pdf).

For additional health-related questions on lead, you can call Health Links–Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257, or contact your local public health office. ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html))

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact me or the Principal at the school. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

John Speidel, CPA, CGA  
Secretary-Treasurer