

# *Town of Port au Port East*

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October 11, 2022

The Town of Port-au-Port East takes the health and safety of its residents seriously and we endeavor to ensure that our water is always safe for all of us. On occasion problems can arise that require a Boil Order to be issued. Some of those issues could be: work being done on the water lines, mechanical failure, bacteria in the sample, low chlorine levels, insufficient staff to conduct the readings on the meters, power outages, along with other possible issues.

On April 20th, 2022, as a result of a decrease in staff, the Town of Port-au-Port East, under the instructions of David Janes, Environmental Health Officer, was placed under a Boil Water Advisory. Following these instructions from Public Health, notices were placed at the Town Office, Canada Post, Fast Trac Gas Bar, Town Website, Facebook, and later, on the Town's electronic billboard that is located near the Tourist information Center. At some point later in the summer, it was noted that there was bacteria in our water but that as we were already on a Boil Water Advisory, nothing further needed to be done. This boil order remained in place until August 26th when the Town had received 2 sets of satisfactory bacteriological water samples, as per government guidelines.

Throughout the spring and summer, the town was also in contact with Jerry Lahey, an Environmental Scientist with the Department of Environment and Climate Change who assured us that we followed all protocols necessary to ensure the safety of all residents. Mr. Lahey is responsible for water certification and training courses in Western Newfoundland.

In early October, Council received a copy of a letter written by the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Krista Lynn Howell. The letter was in reply to a resident who asked that council be removed because it had mismanaged the Boil Order situation. The Minister responded that she had reviewed the situation and that this was a baseless allegation not supported by facts. A copy of that letter is attached.

In the first place the Town followed the guidelines as set out by Public Health. Secondly, we listened to and followed the directives from the Environmental Health Officer, David Janes. Third we listened to and followed the directives from the Environmental Scientist with the Department of Climate Change, Jerry Lahey. Finally we passed a thorough review by the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Krista Lynn Howell. Given these facts, we consider this matter to be closed.

Town Council - Port-au-Port East

AUG 29 2022

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**RE: Boil Order Advisories**

Thank you for your email of August 23, 2022, regarding Boil Water Order Advisories and your request to have members of the Port au Port East Council removed.

While I share your concerns on the importance of clean drinking water, it is my understanding that a precautionary boil order notice was posted on April 19, 2022 and the Town has continued to update the community on this issue. The **Municipal Affairs Act** provides that the minister may order a Special Inspection where the affairs of a municipal authority have been managed in an irregular, improper, or improvident manner. Having thoroughly reviewed the situation at hand, there is no basis to support an allegation of mismanagement in this case. As such, a Special Inspection will not be ordered at this time.

However, if you have concerns regarding posting requirements of Boil Water Order Advisories by municipalities, please contact Gerry Lahey of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Water Resources Division, at [gerrylahey@gov.nl.ca](mailto:gerrylahey@gov.nl.ca). If you are seeking information regarding the results of the microbiological testing of drinking water in your area, you may contact David Janes, Environmental Health Officer with the Government Service Centre, at [DJANES@gov.nl.ca](mailto:DJANES@gov.nl.ca).

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to work with communities by providing funding initiatives to help deliver safe and clean drinking water to their residents. I suggest you encourage your town council to avail of these funding initiatives to ensure ongoing safe and clean drinking water for the residents of Port Au Port East.