

March 28, 2008

Attention Operators of Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries:

Ontario Regulation 243/07 made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* requires that all schools, private schools and day nurseries with plumbing installed prior to January 1, 1990 flush daily. Where plumbing was installed post January 1, 1990, the regulation requires that plumbing is flushed weekly. The regulation also requires that all schools and private schools, as well as day nurseries with plumbing installed before 1990, must test drinking water for lead on an annual basis.

In August, 2007 the Acting Chief Drinking Water Inspector sent you a letter in which the Ministry recommended that daily flushing take place in all schools, private schools and day nurseries, regardless of the plumbing installation date. This recommendation was made in response to early test results which showed exceedences in schools with plumbing installed post-1990. The Ministry recommended this practice as a precautionary measure and committed to analyze all of the 2007 lead testing results it received from schools, private schools and day nurseries more closely, to determine whether daily flushing in all O. Reg. 243/07 facilities was warranted.

The Ministry has reviewed the lead in plumbing test results from schools, private schools and day nurseries. The data indicates that with certain exceptions, daily flushing is not warranted in facilities with plumbing installed post January 1, 1990.

Therefore, the Ministry is recommending that, subject to the following exceptions, any O. Reg. 243/07 facility where all of the plumbing was installed after January 1, 1990 and where both the standing and flushed lead test results were below 10 ug/L revert to weekly flushing as required by O. Reg. 243/07.

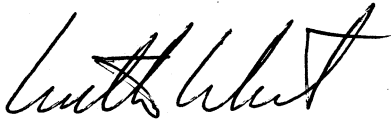
Exceptions:

- 1) any school, private school or day nursery where the standing sample lead test result was over 10 ug/L is recommended to continue to flush the plumbing daily until the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the local medical officer of health..***
- 2) any facility where the flushed lead test result was over 10 ug/L, and was higher than the standing lead test result is likely to have a lead particulate problem and is advised to investigate the source. It is recommended that operators of these facilities remain in close contact with their local MOE office and local health unit until the issue is resolved.***



If you have any questions about the requirements to test and flush plumbing outlined in Ontario Regulation 243/07 and the circumstances when you should consider taking additional measures to flush the plumbing in a building beyond those specified in the regulation, please contact your local Ministry of Environment Office. A list of those offices is attached for your convenience. For your convenience, please find enclosed an updated "at-a-glance" poster that outlines flushing steps. This poster has been revised to remove the note indicating that all facilities should flush daily regardless of age. You may also wish to refer to the *Flushing and Testing for Lead in Drinking Water* guide that was sent to all school boards, private school and day nursery operators along with the "at-a-glance" poster on sampling steps that were provided in January 2008. Additional copies of these materials can be obtained by:

- Visiting the Drinking Water Ontario website at www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater to download a copy, or
- Contacting the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923.



Keith West
Chief Drinking Water Inspector

Ministry of the Environment Local Offices - Drinking Water

Central Region - (Halton-Peel)

4145 North Service Road, Suite 300, Burlington, ON L7L 6A3

905-319-3847

Central Region - (York Durham District)

230 Westney Road S., 5th Fl., Ajax, ON L1 S 755

905-427-5600

South West Region - (London)

3232 White Oak Rd, London, ON N6E 1L8

519-873-5094

South West Region - (Barrie)

54 Cedar Pointe Dr., Unit 1201, Barrie, ON L4N 5R7

705-739-644 1

South West Region - (Sarnia)

1094 London Rd., Sarnia, ON N7S 1 P1

519-336-4030

South West Region - (Windsor)

45 10 Rhodes Dr., Unit 620, Windsor, ON N8 W 5K5

519-948- 1464

South West Region - (Owen Sound)

1580 20th St. E., Owen sound, ON N4K 6H6

519-371-2901

West Central Region - (Niagara)

301 St. Paul St., 9th Fl Suite 15, St. Catharines, ON L2R 3M8

905-704-3900

West Central Region - (Hamilton)

1 19 King St. W., 12th Fl., Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y7

905-521-7650

West Central Region - (Guelph)

1 Stone Rd. W., Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

519-826-4255

Eastern Region - (Kingston)

1259 Gardiners Rd., Unit 3, Kingston, ON K7M 8S5

61 3-549-4000

Eastern Region - (Ottawa)

2430 Don Reid Dr., Ottawa, ON K1 H 1E1

613-521-3450

Eastern Region - (Cornwall)

113 Amelia St., 1 st Fl., Cornwall ON K6H 3P 1

61 3-933-7402

Eastern Region - (Peterborough)

300 Water St., 2nd Fl., Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5

705-755-4300

Eastern Region - (Belleville)

345 College St. E., Belleville, ON K8N 5S7

613-962-9208

Northern Region - (Kenora)

808 Robertson St., 2nd Fl., Kenora, ON P9N 3X9

807-468-2718

Northern Region - (Thunder Bay)

436 James St. S., 3rd Fl Suite 331, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

807-475-1205

Northern Region - (Timmins)

Hwy 101 E., South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0

705-235-1500

Northern Region - (North Bay)

191 Booth Rd., Unit 16 & 17, North Bay, ON P1A 4K3

705-497-6865

Northern Region - (Sudbury)

199 Larch St., Suite 1201, Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9

705-564-3237

Northern Region - (Sault Ste. Marie)

289 Bay St., 3rd Fl., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1W7

705-942-6354