

Ensuring a safe and clean water supply

Water Quality in Waskesiu

Parks Canada routinely monitors the quality of drinking water in Waskesiu from the lake to the tap. Health Canada sets the guidelines that should be met. Trihalomethanes (THMs) in water samples taken from Waskesiu Lake were above the guidelines in 2016, 2017 and 2020. The increase in THMs was attributed to a mix of factors including environment and weather conditions in source lake water. THM levels are tested quarterly each year. The health and safety of visitors, residents and employees is Parks Canada's first priority.

FAQs

What are THMs?

THMs are a by-product that is created when source water from Waskesiu Lake is disinfected with chlorine. Chlorine is used to disinfect the water, making it safe to drink. The benefits of disinfection far outweigh the possible health risks of THMs or lack of water treatment.

What are the risks of consuming THMs?

According to Health Canada, drinking water with a raised THM level above the guideline may pose a health risk if consumed in large quantities over many decades. There may be a carcinogenic risk of 1 in 1,000,000 based on a consumption rate of 1.5 litres per day for 70 years.

What is the park doing to reduce THM levels in Waskesiu drinking water?

Parks Canada is exploring strategies to upgrade water treatment operations and maintenance activities to reduce the levels of THMs in Waskesiu drinking water. The park is also working with the Waskesiu Community Council, Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and Waskesiu Chamber to share information and keep staff, residents and visitors safe and informed. Collected water quality data is provided annually to the Waskesiu Community Council and posted on Waskesiu.org.

What steps can I take to help reduce or eliminate THMs in drinking water?

Individuals can take steps to help reduce or eliminate THMs in drinking water by:

- Placing water in the refrigerator uncovered overnight.
- Boiling water before consumption.
- Using a filtration system or pour through filter.

Check out the helpful links for more information.



Helpful links

Saskatchewan Water Security Agency: wsask.ca

- [Chlorine and water disinfection](#)
- [THMs](#)

Health Canada: canada.ca/healthcanada

- [Drinking water chlorination](#)
- [Disinfection by-products in drinking water](#)
- [Questions and answers on drinking water treatment devices](#)

For more information

To view annual water quality data please visit Waskesiu.org.

To learn more about water treatment processes and facilities in Waskesiu please e-mail pc.PANPassets.pc@canada.ca.

