

**Prince Albert National Park
Fall Water Service Shut Down Directive**

- Date: June 30, 2021
- Subject: Parks Canada Agency to turn off water services in Waskesiu in advance of forecasted cold weather predicted by Environment Canada.
- Purpose: a) To protect existing utility infrastructure and to avoid unnecessary repairs to parts of the system deemed to be fragile if affected by sub-zero temperatures.
- b) To provide direction to Parks Canada Agency staff with respect to when the water service in the Waskesiu community is shut down.
- Guiding Principle: Parks Canada staff will make all reasonable efforts to have water services available to seasonal residents, when favourable weather forecasts are projected by Environment Canada, during the occupational period of their leases.
- Water services will be turned off in the fall of any given year at any time deemed necessary, at the discretion of the Field Unit Superintendent, in order to protect the water utility infrastructure. This action may happen with or without notice.
- Background: Temperatures below minus five (-5) degrees Celsius have an adverse affect on the water utility system. Water service lines in many areas of Waskesiu are buried at shallow depths and are subject to damage when temperatures drop below the freezing mark. A variety of utility system parts break when water lines freeze and thaw if water services are not shut down and service lines are not blown out in advance of such cold weather spells. The result is having to pay for parts and labour to replace broken valves, tees and related items that would not have been damaged if the water service was shut down prior to the onset of cold weather.
- The protection of Park infrastructure and avoiding unnecessary expenditures is a priority for Parks Canada Agency and is supported by the Waskesiu Community Council.
- Policy: 1. Cold Temperature Guide
- a) In the fall of any given year, if the asset department recognizes that temperatures are likely to fall below minus five (-5) degrees Celsius, using Environment Canada’s weather forecast system as the guide, the Field Unit Superintendent, on advice of the Asset Manager, may shut down water service to areas of

the Waskesiu community that are deemed to be at risk due to cold weather.

- b) Water service will be considered at risk in the following situations:
- Three (3) days in a row of forecast overnight low temperatures of -5°C or lower.
 - One (1) day of forecast overnight low temperature of -13°C or lower.
 - Other comparable forecast conditions that the Field Unit Superintendent deems will put the water system infrastructure at risk of damage due to cold weather.
- c) Where advance notice is possible, information will be posted at the entrances to specific subdivisions within the community of Waskesiu to advise residents of such areas that water services will be turned off and that service lines will be blown out due to predicted cold weather forecasts.
- d) This water service shut down procedure may happen with or without advance notice. All reasonable efforts will be taken to notify the Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council and the President of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association.

2. Year End Service

- a) Notwithstanding the cold temperature guide above, water services shut down will begin on the Tuesday following the Thanksgiving weekend to ensure sufficient time for staff to properly winterise the system.

Recommended by: Waskesiu Community Council



Jim Kerby, Chair
Waskesiu Community Council

Date: June 30, 2021

Approved by:



Calvert Martin, Superintendent
Northern Prairies Field Unit

Date: June 30, 2021