



Yellowknife Education District No. 1
Commission scolaire publique n°1 de Yellowknife

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Precautionary Measures Taken Following Lead Test Result at Range Lake North School and École William McDonald Middle School

Yellowknife, NT — Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1), in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), is taking precautionary action following the detection of lead in one water sample at Range Lake North School and École William McDonald Middle School. The samples, collected in April 2025 as part of the territory-wide school water testing initiative, showed lead concentrations slightly above Health Canada's maximum acceptable guideline of 0.005 mg/L.

While this result is based on a single sample and additional testing is required, YK1 has immediately taken steps to shut off all drinking and cooking water sources in the schools. **Alternate safe drinking water sources** (bottled water and/or dispensers) have been provided for all students and staff.

While the treated water from the City of Yellowknife remains safe and routinely meets national standards, this precaution is about ensuring student and staff safety at the school level. YK1 is working closely with public health officials and infrastructure specialists to investigate and resolve the issue quickly.

An enhanced testing protocol is now underway, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO), to assess all fountains and cold water taps used for drinking and food preparation. This will help identify any issues within the school's internal plumbing system. Results of this follow-up testing will be shared with the school community as they become available.

It is important to note that the **school water remains safe for non-consumption activities**, including handwashing and cleaning.

Lead can enter drinking water through corrosion of pipes and fixtures, particularly in buildings with older plumbing systems. Prolonged exposure to elevated levels of lead can pose health risks, especially for children, which is why YK1 and ECE are taking this proactive approach.

Protecting the health and well-being of our students is our top priority. We appreciate the support and understanding of families as we take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of our school environment.

For questions or further information, families are encouraged to contact the **Department of Education, Culture and Employment** at educationoperations@gov.nt.ca.