



Drought Planning

Information for First Nations Communities

This information is being provided to increase awareness of current drought and water restriction conditions and to take action that will minimize negative impacts during this summer's dry season.

What Causes Drought Conditions?

A drought can occur whenever there is insufficient rain or snowfall over an extended period of time, resulting in water shortage for communities and ecosystems.

What Are The Impacts Of Drought?

Drought conditions can impact communities and individuals in many ways including:

- Reduced water availability for household and business uses. Under extreme conditions, water systems could run out of potable water.
- Unable to meet fire suppression requirements.
- Limited access to water for outdoor purposes, toilet flushing, dish washing, laundry, bathing, showering and even for cooking and drinking.
- Impacts to water quality of water drawn surface sources that can compromise the disinfection system and reduce the quality and safety of the finished water.

How Can I help Conserve Water?

To help conserve and reduce water use, you can:

- Fix leaky faucets and taps promptly. A dripping tap can waste up to 20 litres or more per day! Report any water leaks noted in your home, and around your community.
- When hand-washing dishes, do not let the water run continuously.
- If you do not have a low flow toilet, you can achieve a smaller volume of water per flush by adding something to the tank reservoir to displace water. A water-filled 1-litre plastic milk jug works well. Be sure to place them so that they do not interfere with the flushing mechanism.
- Take shorter showers and use a water-conserving showerhead (less than 9.5 litres per minute) rather than taking baths, which use 110 litres to 190 litres of water.
- For cold water, fill a water jug and refrigerate rather than letting the cold water tap run.

FNHA Values:

- Respect
- Discipline
- Relationships
- Culture
- Excellence
- Fairness



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

FNHA Directives:

- **Community-Driven, Nation-Based**
- **Increase First Nations Decision-Making and Control**
- **Improve Services**
- **Foster Meaningful Collaboration and Partnership**
- **Develop Human and Economic Capacity**
- **Be Without Prejudice to First Nations Interests**
- **Function at a High Operational Standard**

- When shaving, brushing teeth, or washing your face, do not let the water run continuously.
- Run the dishwasher and laundry machines only with full loads. Use the shortest wash and rinse cycles and the lowest water level setting possible. Avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an additional 38 to 75 litres of water.
- Use a bucket when washing your car, and wash and rinse sections individually. Use a high-pressure, low-volume hose with a nozzle. During severe restrictions, washing cars should be discouraged.
- If you have a garden, soaker hoses and drip irrigation are 20% more efficient than spray. Plants can be hand watered, or watered using a hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle. Do not water in the heat of the day. Early morning or evening watering provides the most water for your plants. Lawns should not be watered in severe drought.
- Backyard swimming pools/hot tubs put enormous strain on a water system, especially in drought conditions. Using a pool cover will minimize loss due to evaporation. Filling of pools, hot tubs, or fountains may be restricted or banned during severe drought.

Under **severe water restriction**, use potable water for the following essential uses only:

- Drinking water
- Mixing Baby Formula
- Cooking
- Brushing teeth
- Washing
- Flushing

First Nations Community Water Systems should have an Emergency Response Plan in place that includes a Drought Response Plan.

Additional information on developing Emergency and Drought Response Plans through the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) Website: www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

For any water-related public health issues, please contact your FNHA Environmental Health Officer. Find your EHO Contact on our website: www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health

