



STATEMENT FROM KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ON PUVIRNITUQ WATER DISTRIBUTION CHALLENGES

For immediate release

Kuujuuaq, Quebec, April 14, 2025 – The Northern Village of Puvirnituk is currently facing severe water distribution challenges. Several factors currently impact delivery of a reliable supply of drinking water to residents: water infrastructure limitations; limited capacity of alternate delivery by water trucks; retaining experienced technical staff; and inadequate funding to install a water delivery system that meets acceptable standards. These issues have been made worse by recent extreme weather conditions.

On March 17, following extended blizzard conditions, a Puvirnituk town employee reported that the water pipeline had frozen and raw water transmission had ceased. This pipeline, which was constructed in 1991 and retrofitted in 2005, spans over five kilometers underground and has a diameter of 150 millimeters.

Efforts to thaw the frozen pipeline were unsuccessful, and further interventions are postponed until milder temperatures prevail. Staff are exploring alternate methods to establish temporary water flow during the coming spring and summer.

Currently, water trucks travel to the raw water pumping station to load and distribute water, with manual chlorination performed for disinfection. The extended travel distance on icy roads and prolonged loading times are reducing distribution efficiency. The town's water transportation fleet is also impacted by delays in receiving spare parts to make timely repairs. KRG staff are working with the municipality to resolve this issue.

On April 4, a water test report indicated positive results for contamination from E.coli. A certified operator was dispatched to verify and retest, and a false positive was confirmed. Daily testing by certified instructors is underway to ensure water safety and reliability, and to further train local operators.

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