

COMMUNITY FOR CLEAN WATER

PRINCE RUPERT NEEDS CLEAN WATER FOR EVERYONE

For Immediate Release

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On Day 46 of Boil Water Notice or Water Quality Advisory for Prince Rupert, Community Organization Continues to Call on the City to Start Emergency Provisions for Vulnerable Residents and to Launch an Independent Investigation for Clean Water

(PRINCE RUPERT, BC) January 28, 2019 marks the **46th day** that Elders, young children, and residents with a compromised immune system, or another related medical condition, must either buy drinking water or boil water from Prince Rupert's municipal water system before consuming it. For the most vulnerable, access to drinking water remains restricted if they cannot afford to buy their water and do not have the means to boil it.

On December 14, 2018 the city announced that a Boil Water Notice was in effect. While the notice was downgraded to a Water Quality Advisory on January 25, 2019, the city's most vulnerable residents continue facing restricted access to clean water. Provisions for these residents are just as important now, as they were during the Boil Water Notice.

Tom Kertes, volunteer organizer of Community for Clean Water, will present to Mayor and Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for January 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Prince Rupert City Hall. Community for Clean Water is calling on the city to:

1. Recognize access to drinking water as a human right which must be fulfilled by the municipal government, especially for the city's most vulnerable residents and even during a Boil Water Notice or Water Quality Advisory.
2. Launch a broad, extensive, independent, and transparent investigation into the city's preparations for, and responses to, a **46 plus day** Boil Water Notice and Water Quality Advisory that includes looking into measures provided for vulnerable residents, the health and safety affects of the situation, and any economic impacts.
3. Ensure that the investigation is conducted by an independent expert on water quality and public water infrastructure who gathers feedback directly from those most vulnerable to restricted access to drinking water during an extended breakdown of the public water system. The full results of the investigation should be made public.

Community for Clean Water still plans to present its proposed *Clean Water Preparedness Plan* to the Mayor and Council at the Committee of the Whole. To learn about the plan visit <http://CommunityForCleanWater.ca>.

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