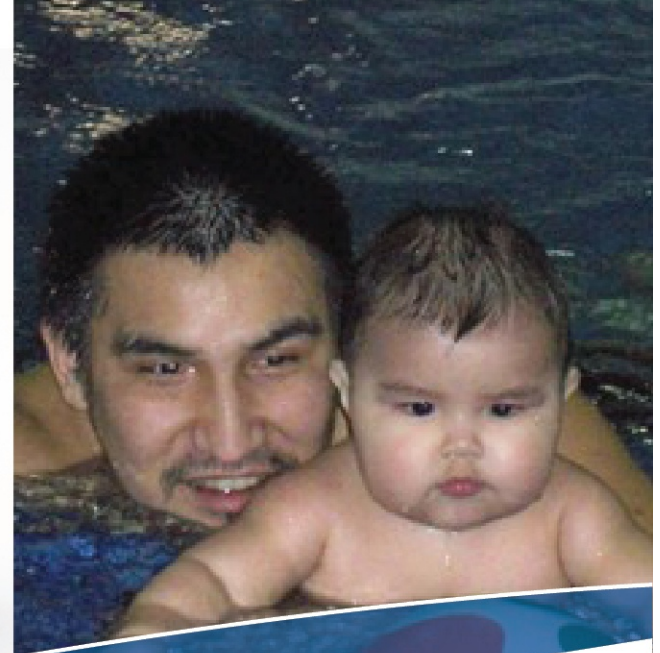


# Water Issues in BC's Peace Region

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# Background

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- Northeast Manager, Public Health Protection since 2003
- Environmental Health Officer/Drinking Water Officer since 1989



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## Related Experience

- Ensuring compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act and regulations through inspections, issuing permits, monitoring sampling and investigations.
- Health Authority Representative on Provincial Environmental (Water and Food) Laboratory Task Group.



## Currently working on....

- Bringing systems into compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act
- Sampling issues - bacteriological and chemical frequency, access to labs, and transportation challenges
- Small water system operator training
- Reducing the processing time for construction permit applications



## 3 Most Important Issues

- Water Quality and Quantity - source assessment and protection, exploring alternative sources, access to potable water other than hauling
- Private water system owners/users information
- Environmental Assessment Technical Reviews of proposed major industrial projects

## Agencies involved

- Local Government -Municipalities, Peace River Regional District, Oil and Gas Commission
- Ministries of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations , Agriculture, Environment and Transportation, First Nations Health Authority
- Environmental Assessment Office, Ministry of Health



## What Needs to be done

- Recommend creation of/updating of watershed/water source assessment plans
- Supporting aquifer mapping - updating databases
- Interagency group to work on private system information package and education campaign
- Improve health impact assessments for major industrial projects



# Obstacles

- Water system assessments are not mandatory
- Barriers to further research - resources and time
- No coordinated approach to health impact assessments for major industrial projects





## To Overcome Obstacles

- Drinking water officer training or legislative amendments to outline when water source/watershed assessments must be made.
- Develop centralized capacity for health impact assessments.



## Government could...

- Support and fund further water source assessments, research and mapping
- Fund a position at Provincial Health Services Authority to respond to Environmental Assessment Reviews

