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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Department of Health
Munaqhiliqiyitkut
Ministère de la Santé

July 27, 2018

Amy Elgersma
A/Chief Administrative Officer
City of Iqaluit
PO Box 460
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

**RE: Chief Medical Officer of Health Direction: City of Iqaluit Emergency Drinking Water Reservoir Defecit**

Dear Ms. Elgersma:

The Department of Health (Health) has been working with the City of Iqaluit (City) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (formerly INAC) with respect to the above. As you know, the City has been experiencing a deficit in their water reservoir levels for domestic drinking water. The deficit will impact the City's ability to provide adequate domestic drinking water to the community over the coming winter season 2018/2019.

The deficit is significant and is viewed by Health as an health emergency for the following reasons pertinent to the Public Health Act and Public Water Supply Regulations:

*Section 6 - No surface water source shall be approved for use in a public water supply unless (a) the quantity of the water sufficient to permit reasonable quality control of the water having regard to the estimated demand that the source is required to fill.*

*Section 7(1) The quantity of water in a surface water source shall be adequate to supply the water demand, including the fire demand, of the community using the surface water source including a reasonable surplus for anticipated growth.*

*Section 8 – Where a surface water source is approved for use in a public water supply nothing which may adversely affect the quality of the raw water may be done on the watershed without approval by the Chief Medical Health Officer.*

Insufficient domestic drinking water quantity affects human health directly in the spread of water washed diseases, communicable disease, and increase in dental caries and a declination in

sanitation. Insufficient quantity of water will affect the City's ability to provide fire response and endanger the health of the residents of Iqaluit.

As the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Nunavut, section 20 (1) of the Public Health Act authorizes me to direct any matter or thing relating to the enforcement of the Act or regulations be done by a person. I thereby direct the City of Iqaluit to immediately intervene and supplement Lake Geraldine to ensure the City of Iqaluit has sufficient water quantity for the coming winter season.

In addition to this direction it is essential that the source from which supplemental water will be drawn from meets the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water for general chemistry and metals, along with petroleum hydrocarbon F1-F4 fraction and PAH (BTEX should be part of the suite). Please ensure the analysis of any proposed source water is vetted through Greg Thibault, Regional Environmental Health Officer. The proposed source must be selected with the knowledge that it must accommodate the proposed withdrawal and not have detrimental effects on the environment, fauna/flora found within. Please ensure you are aware of any other legislative requirements you must comply with in respect to the withdrawal of water to supplement the City's reservoir.

I would also like to emphasize that this direction is given due to the emergent nature of the current situation. Provision must be made by the City to ensure this situation is not ongoing annually. Please keep Greg Thibault in the loop with respect to a permanent solution for the City's water deficit.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Barker, MD, CFP, MPH, FRCP(C)

Chief Medical Officer of Health

Department of Health

Cc: Greg Thibault, Regional Environmental Health Officer

Erik Allain, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs