

# PACIFIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: Water Testing Policy

## Summary

- BC government policy requires independent schools like PCS to test the lead content in drinking water on a regular basis (minimum every three years, also whenever there are any changes to the supply line piping for the water system in the school buildings).
- PCS has purchased and installed new water fountains and water bottle filling stations in the elementary school building (built in various stages since 1960), complete with in-line filters to remove any lead content.
- Students and staff have been informed that these are the designated safe water stations in the school (along with the staff room and school kitchen).
- The drinking water in the secondary school building (original construction date of 1986) has been tested and found to be safe, so all water sources are considered to be safe for drinking.

## Rationale for Testing Lead in Drinking Water

- Student health and safety is a concern shared by all parties in the K-12 education system. This policy provides minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of school facilities, reporting of the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students or staff.

## Province of BC Policy

- Independent schools like PCS are required to test for lead content in drinking water.
- If sample results reveal lead levels exceeding 0.010 mg/L, PCS will undertake mitigation strategies, in consultation with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).
- Mitigation strategies could include water flushing regimes, filter installations, plumbing upgrades, or deactivation of water sources with supplemental signage.
- If testing finds drinking water concentrations of lead at or above the maximum acceptable level, PCS will:
  - Inform and work with the local VIHA branch
  - Communicate results of the testing and mitigation strategies with parents, students and staff.

## Partnership with Health Authority

- PCS is working with the Drinking Water Policy, Vancouver Island Health Authority

## Mitigation Strategies

PCS is undertaking the following mitigation strategies:

### In the Elementary School:

- Designated water sources approved for drinking.
- In-line filters added to new drinking water fountains.

- Staff, students and parents informed of designated safe water stations.
- Drinking water to be tested at a minimum of every three years.

#### Health Authority Contact Information

- Vancouver Island Health Authority Drinking Water Program  
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