

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION:
Good practices and
recommendations from
AGLG's drinking water audits

Webinar hosted by POLIS

AGLG ACT ENABLES THE OFFICE



AUDITOR GENERAL FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mandate

- Conduct performance audits of local government operations

Potential Auditees

- 161 municipalities, 27 regional districts, and 2 greater boards
- Improvement and irrigation districts currently not in AGLG mandate

Purpose

- Provide local governments with objective information and relevant advice that will assist them in their accountability to their communities for the stewardship of public assets and the achievement of value for money in their operations

Practices

- Conduct audits according to CPA Canada assurance standards

PERFORMANCE AUDITS



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WHAT IS A PERFORMANCE AUDIT?

- ▶ Performance audits, sometimes called “value-for-money” audits evaluate the operations of local governments.
- ▶ Focused on Effectiveness, Efficiency and Economy
- ▶ Recent drinking water audits are not the same as other types of water audits such as a leak detection survey or water balance exercise.



RECENT DRINKING WATER AUDITS



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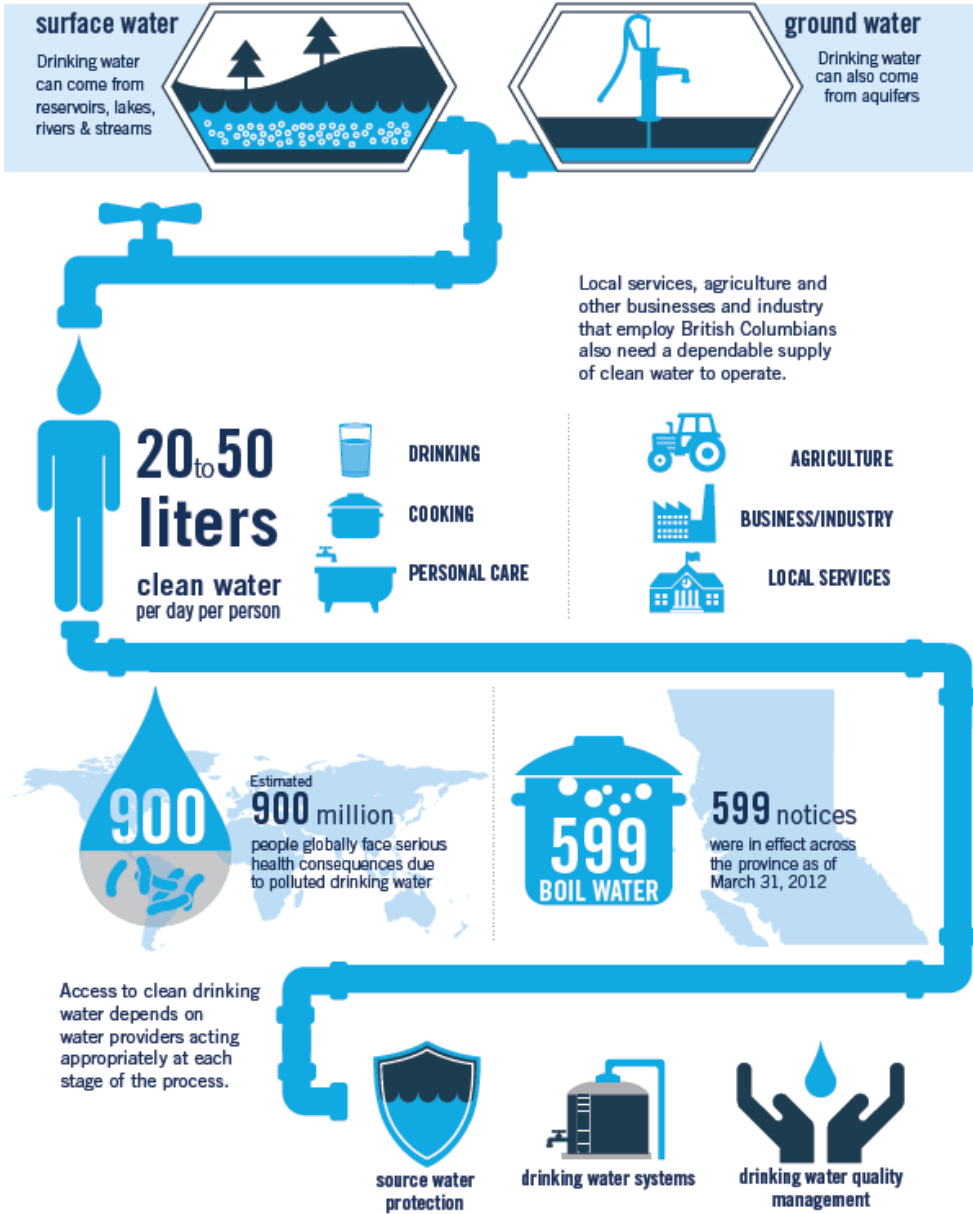
➤ **Local Government's Role in Ensuring Clean Drinking Water**

- Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen - *completed*
- City of Kelowna – *completed*
- Township of Langley - *underway*
- Drinking Water Perspective Series booklet – *underway*

WHY CLEAN DRINKING WATER IS IMPORTANT



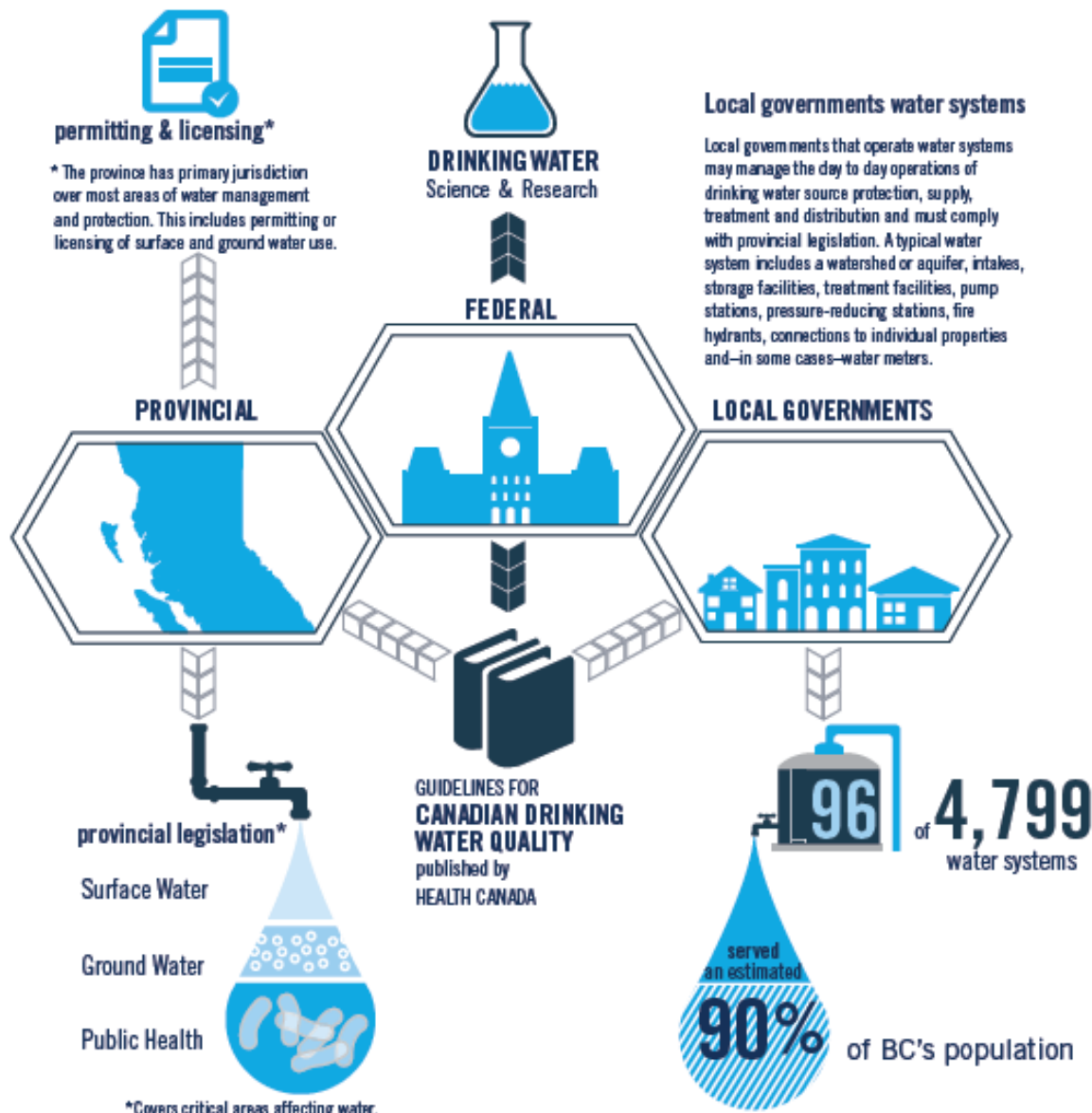
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RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER



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ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER AUDITS



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SOME ATTRIBUTES OF OUR AUDITEES

- Municipal and regional district governance
- Both ground water and surface water sources
- Lake intakes and shared multi-use watershed
- Drought prone areas
- Multiple levels of governments and stakeholders

GOOD PRACTICES FOUND



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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

- Fenced and secured wells in Faulder and Olalla
- Worked with stakeholders and commissioned Similkameen Watershed Plan.
- Worked with Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Led public outreach on water conservation education (not enforcement)
- Promoted innovative water conservation methods such as xeriscaping and rainwater harvesting

OUR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (SOURCE WATER PROTECTION)



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FINDINGS

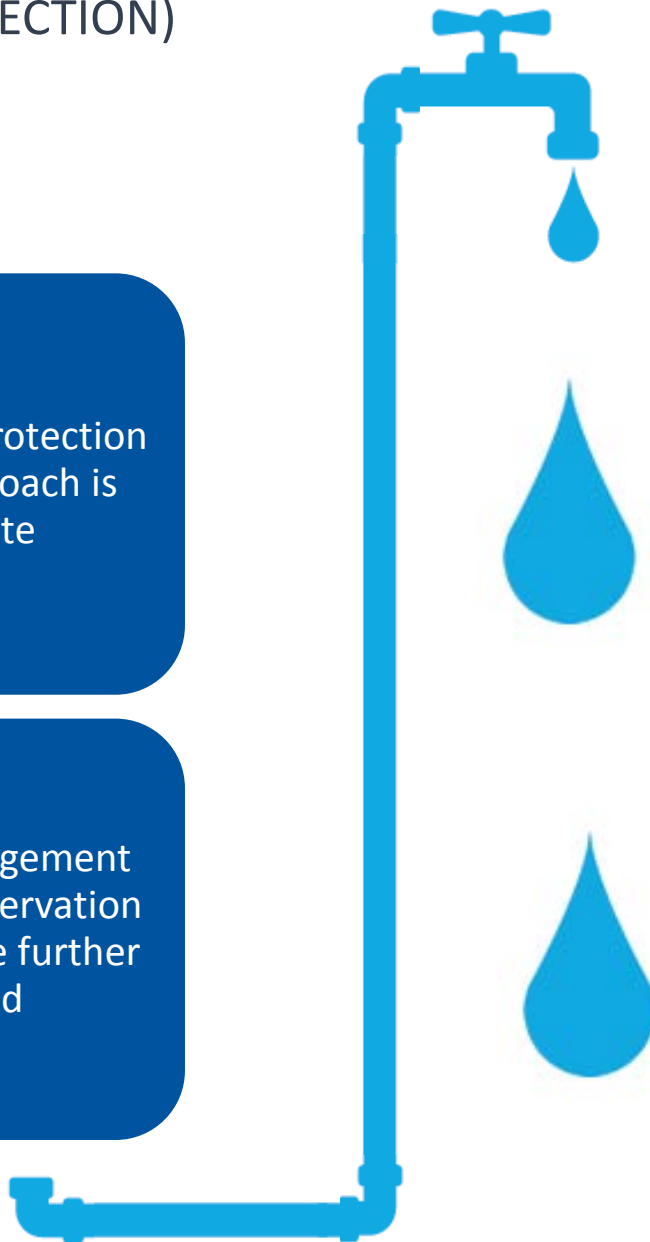
Source water protection
planning approach is
incomplete

Demand management
and water conservation
efforts could be further
enhanced

RECOMMENDATIONS

The local government
should improve its
approach to source water
protection planning

The local government
should improve its
conservation and
demand-management
efforts.



SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANNING



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RECOMMENDATION

The local government should improve its approach to source water protection planning.

- In both the regional district and city, the local government could further develop source water protection planning by developing relevant plans and strategies (e.g. drought management plans, conservation plans, storm/rainwater management plans, land use or development bylaws, sewer and sanitary bylaws)
- Improve drinking water supply planning
- Coordinate source water protection initiatives with stakeholders
- Build community support for source water protection



CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT



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RECOMMENDATION

The local government should improve its conservation and demand-management efforts.

- Update conservation strategy to improve compliance with bylaws
- Develop a comprehensive long-term drought management plan to help inform conservation efforts
- Consider using variable water rates, pricing and public awareness of the full cost of water services as tools for achieving conservation and demand management goals





► **Why a Perspective Series booklet on Drinking Water?**

- Important for elected officials and others to understand their local government's role in the provision of drinking water, including aspects of governance, planning, sustainable financing, integrated water management and developing relationships
- A way to further assist local governments by sharing some key learnings from our drinking water audits in a different format

QUESTIONS?



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CONNECT WITH US



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