



Park West School Division

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Stephen David
Superintendent/CEO

Inderjeet Singh
Secretary-Treasurer

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Topic: **Drinking Water Lead Sampling**

Health Canada released a new national guideline for lead in drinking water in March 2019. This update lowered the allowable level for lead in from 0.01 mg/L (milligrams per litre) to 0.005 mg/L (milligrams per litre). The guideline also recommended testing drinking water at school taps and drinking water fountains.

In September 2020, the Office of the Auditor General released their report on the *Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety*. The report recommends that the province require all schools and childcare centres to promptly, and periodically thereafter, test for lead, and that the Department of Conservation and Climate publicly report the results of these tests and corrective actions taken.

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, Park West School Division tested for lead in drinking water. Given that the schools at Decker and Monarch colonies are community owned, they were not assessed. Samples were collected of all potable (drinking) water sources including water fountains as well as sinks in staff rooms, kitchens, and canteens. Three samples exceeded the recommended limit for lead. Corrective actions included the changing of faucets and/or replacement of supply lines from copper to plastic. Monitoring of lead levels will continue in future water testing.

The Office of Drinking Water is preparing to publicly post information about lead levels in drinking water in schools and childcare centres on its website, effective May 2022. The second page of this document outlines which Park West schools completed testing, the number of fixtures with elevated results, and whether corrective actions were completed.

Drinking Water Lead Sampling Park West School Division

School	Has testing been completed	Number of samples exceeding the guideline	Corrective actions Taken
Binscarth School	Yes	0	
Birtle Collegiate	Yes	1	Yes
Birtle Elementary	Yes	1	Yes
Decker Colony	No	0	
Hamiota Collegiate	Yes	1	Yes
Hamiota Elementary	Yes	0	
Inglis	Yes	0	
Major Pratt	Yes	0	
Miniota	Yes	0	
Monarch	No	0	
Rosburn Collegiate	Yes	0	
Rosburn Elementary	Yes	0	
Shoal Lake	Yes	0	
Strathclair	Yes	0	
Waywayseecappo	Yes	0	