

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Water Quality Advisory

Posted: May 1, 2023

### **Public Works will be undertaking a Fire Hydrant Flushing Program in order to provide the highest quality water to its customers beginning on: Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9am to 3pm**

*Please Note: This is a preventative maintenance program for the water system that will continue Monday-Friday (excluding holidays) until the program is completed (minimum 2 weeks). The flushing will start at the north end of town, close to the reservoir, and move south. The district will update the public upon completion.*

The process involves opening fire hydrants and letting water run through the mains at high speed to remove sediments that collect naturally inside water pipes. During the flushing process, water users will likely notice temporary changes in water quality including: discoloured water, air in the water (giving water a milky white colour), silt, or a temporary drop in water pressure. Any issues should subside within 48 hours after flushing.

It is advised that residents limit their water use as much as possible while lines are being flushed. Discoloured water may stain clothing or dishes, so it is advisable to avoid using hot water, doing laundry or running the dishwasher.

#### When fire hydrant flushing is complete:

- Turn on a cold-water tap, let it run for a few minutes and then observe if it is running clear. A laundry tap is preferable and the aerator (a fine mesh grid) on your tap should be removed.
- Do not flush from a tap that has a water filter connected to it, as this may cause sediment to clog your filter. Do not flush from a hot water tap as sediment could be flushed into your hot water tank.

**Please be aware: A Water Quality Advisory will be in effect for the Stewart Community Water System due to the occurrence of brown or discoloured water occurring in certain sections of the town distribution system. During this time, Northern Health and the District of Stewart recommend:**

- That children, pregnant women, the elderly and persons with weakened immune systems drink boiled/bottled water at this time,
- That water is brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute, and
- That if discolouration is apparent, water should be flushed until clear prior to consumption.