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PRESS RELEASE

QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER IN CASSELMAN

ON - The municipality of Casselman reassures its residents that the drinking water that comes from the Nation River is safe to drink, despite the color and the smell that could be present.

Mayor Geneviève Lajoie confirms that the news is reassuring: "We are working closely with the Eastern Ontario Public Health Unit and the Ontario Clean Water Agency. Both organizations confirm that the water is safe to drink. Moreover, the water quality tests that are carried out twice a day by OCWA show that the manganese level is starting to drop. It's really good news".

Manganese (Mn) is an element found in air, food, soil and drinking water. You can drink, take a shower, or wash your clothes with this water, without danger. **Avoid boiling the water. This practice will not lower the level of manganese but will rather increase its concentration.**

The Chief Medical Officer of the Eastern Ontario Public Health Unit, Dr. Paul Roumeliotis has reviewed studies conducted in various countries around the world and the standard of acceptable rates varies greatly. Doctor Paul Roumeliotis is reassuring:

"We have been aware of past challenges with manganese levels in the Casselman water system and have observed that they are temporary, related to hot and dry weather conditions affecting the properties of the source of the water. Note that Ontario currently does not have a drinking water quality standard for manganese. For adults and older children, short-term exposure to manganese in drinking water above the Health Canada guideline of 0.12mg/L is unlikely to cause negative health effects. Some studies suggest that drinking water with high levels of manganese may be harmful to infants and young children, but the level of exposure that could cause this is not clear.

As a result of additional treatments at the Casselman Water Treatment Plant, the levels of manganese are decreasing. We will continue to work with Casselman municipal staff and other partners to closely monitor the manganese levels to ensure they do not exceed the Health Canada guidelines. In the longer term, we will continue to advocate for a new source of drinking water for the city of Casselman. Manganese in water can cause discoloration but can still be used for bathing and washing. Boiling the water will not remove the manganese and in fact is not recommended."

The phenomenon of manganese in water is well known in Casselman because during the summer, the water level of the Nation River drops considerably. The same situation occurred in 2016 and 2019.



Mayor Lajoie adds: “My predecessors had started discussions with the province and the federal government regarding this issue. We must find a new source of drinking water for Casselman. We will bring all our partners and MPs to the table before the end of the summer to resume this important work. »

For more information :

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