

## 7.10 Purchase and Use of Bottled Water Policy

### Policy Statement

The Government of Nova Scotia regulates municipal and registered public drinking water supplies in the province. It is important that the Province stands as a leader in the promotion of public drinking water, and the building of public confidence in the use of drinking water in Nova Scotia. The use of potable tap water over bottled water conserves energy, reduces utilization of fossil fuels and single-use plastics and saves money.

To this end, the Government of Nova Scotia will no longer purchase bottled water where potable tap water is available and;

The Government will encourage staff to use potable tap water.

### Definitions

#### **BOTTLED WATER**

Water that can be purchased in individual sized bottles (plastic and glass).

#### **POTABLE TAP WATER**

Water that is provided by a municipal water treatment or distribution facility, or a registered public drinking water supply. The water is regularly tested following provincial standards and is safe for human consumption and domestic use.

### Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to achieve the following:

- Eliminate the government purchasing of bottled water where potable water is available;
- Minimize government staff and client use of bottled water;
- Increase the use of potable tap water for government staff and clients.

## **Application**

This policy applies to all government employees.

It is recognized that individuals who are immuno-compromised or have other sensitivities related to water quality may need to buy bottled water.

This policy is exempt in the case of an emergency as defined by the *Emergency Management Act*.

## **Policy Directives**

- Meetings and events hosted by the Government of Nova Scotia (on or off site) shall have potable tap water available to clients and employees when potable water is available. Bottled water will not be provided;
- The use of government supplied bottled water will be limited to work places that do not have access to potable tap water or are under a water advisory.

## **Policy Guidelines**

- Encourage staff to use potable tap water in refillable containers rather than purchasing bottled water when at work (e.g., buildings, meetings and training sessions);
- Encourage staff to drink water as part of a healthy lifestyle whereby potable tap water is an excellent source.

## **Accountability**

Management and staff responsible for purchasing are accountable for executing this policy.

Employees are responsible for following the policy.

## **Monitoring**

Each department/agency will be responsible for monitoring the policy's implementation, performance and effectiveness.

## **References**

*Environment Act*

Water and Wastewater Facilities and Public Drinking Water Supplies Regulations

*Occupational Health and Safety Act*

Occupational Safety General Regulations

*Emergency Management Act*  
Health Canada. Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality  
Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy

## **Enquiries**

Department of Environment and Climate Change  
(902) 424-3600

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