



District of Fort St. James and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako JOINT PRESS RELEASE



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Water Filling Station Now Open in Fort St. James

Fort St. James, B.C. – The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the District of Fort St. James are pleased to be partners on the installation of a metered water filling station. This station provides rural residents access to potable water from the District of Fort St. James' water distribution system. The water station is located at 300 Stuart Drive E., next to the Fort Forum Arena.

Installation of the system was cost-shared by the District of Fort St. James and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural). The Area C contribution was made through a Canada Community-Building Fund BC grant. Residents will be able to use the system's on-site point-of-sale system with either their debit or credit card, or by setting up an account with the District of Fort St. James, to access potable water for tanks or other containers for their homes. The rate for one cubic meter (1,000 litres) of water is \$13.34.

Drought conditions across BC in recent years have significantly impacted well reserves for rural residents in Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural). This new automated system, operated by the District of Fort St. James, will ensure that residents from outside the municipality can access affordable, potable water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"The installation of this water filling station is a major milestone for the community. With a reliable, year-round source of potable water, residents can have greater peace of mind, especially during drought conditions. We're proud to support an initiative that strengthens long-term water security."
– The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada

"Reliable access to water close to home gives people in and around Fort St. James stability and peace of mind for daily needs. As climate impacts continue to challenge local water systems, communities need strong, resilient infrastructure. That's why our government is supporting rural and municipal partners in strengthening water access and preparing for the long-term needs of residents."
- Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government & Rural Communities

"Water security is a growing concern for rural residents who depend on groundwater wells. Our goal is to make sure everyone has access to safe, potable water. This automated system will give residents a convenient way to fill water tanks or household containers. We are pleased to be partnering with the District of Fort St. James on this project to support rural residents and help address the impacts of climate change in our communities."
– Judy Greenaway, RDBN Director, Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

"We are delighted our partnership with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako will provide access to potable water to rural residents year-round. This collaboration reflects our shared desire to improve quality of life for everyone in our community."

- Martin Elphee, Mayor, District of Fort St. James

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