MAINTAINING GOOD QUALITY DRINKING WATER IN COMMUNITIES IS A CHALLENGE

SCIENCE BRIEF

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Monitoring of water quality for both primary and secondary sources of drinking water in communities should be improved.*
- *Important sources of drinking water close to communities should be protected.*

Nunavik and Nunatsiavut have a rich natural heritage of lakes, rivers and wetlands that require ongoing stewardship and protection. Permafrost thaw lakes (thermokarst ponds) are a major classification of northern freshwater ecosystems, and they appear to be increasing in abundance and total surface area in parts of the circumpolar North, including Nunavik, as the permafrost continues to warm and degrade. The avoidance and mitigation of chemical pollution of northern aquatic ecosystems from both long-range and local sources requires ongoing vigilance.

Secondary water sources near communities are commonly used and are culturally important sources of drinking water. A variety of drinking water problems related to both supply and quality have been identified throughout Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. The monitoring of water quality of both treated and untreated secondary sources of water is currently deficient.

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