

# Introduction to the GWUDI Guideline

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# Importance of Assessing Risks

- To assess the risk to human health attributable to water-borne disease causing microorganisms (pathogens).
- Regulatory requirement to disinfect public drinking water wells if DWO deems that they are at risk of containing pathogens – Section 5(2) of Drinking Water Protection Regulation.



# Ground Water at risk of containing pathogens including ground water under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI)

- Project initiated under the direction of the Drinking Water Leadership Council and endorsed by the Council of Public Health Engineers (PHEs).
- Objectives:
  - To assist decision makers (e.g. DWOs, PHEs) with a guidance document that uses the best available science and information.
  - To develop guidelines customized to regional and hydrogeological frameworks in BC.



# Development of GWUDI Guidelines

- Working group formed to direct project:
  - Murray Sexton, P. Eng – Public Health Engineer, VIHA
  - Tin Tun, P. Eng – Public Health Engineer, FHA
  - Marc Zobel, P. Eng – Manager, Drinking Water Program, FHA
  - Vicki Carmichael, P. Ag, Senior Groundwater Hydrologist, MOE
- Consultant hired to draft guidance document.
- Draft document has been reviewed by regional MOE hydrogeologists, Health Authority staff, academics, GW Advisory Board and selected groundwater consultants.
- MHLS released interim guideline to HA for implementation.

# Next Steps

- Health Authorities have begun to develop implementation strategies.
- Regional Health Authority Directors will be providing feedback and issues on implementation of guideline to the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.
- Public feedback on guidance document can be sent to Michael Zemanek, Director, Healthy Community Environments, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport ([Michael.Zemanek@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Zemanek@gov.bc.ca)) (250 952-2372).
- Anticipated that further work will be done on aspects of GWUDI such as treatment options, MPA, etc.

