



# Snowmobiling Activities inside a Protected Public Water Supply Area

A water supply area or watershed is an area of land bounded by topographic features that captures precipitation and filters, stores and drains water to a common outlet such as a lake, stream or ocean.

## What is a Protected Public Water Supply Area?

A Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA) is a protected area under Section 39 of the Water Resources Act and is a source of public drinking water for a community.

## What types of activities are not permitted in a PPWSA?

It is unlawful to release any material that may impair drinking water quality within the PPWSA including:

- Petroleum products
- Toxic chemicals
- Garbage/ litter
- Septic waste

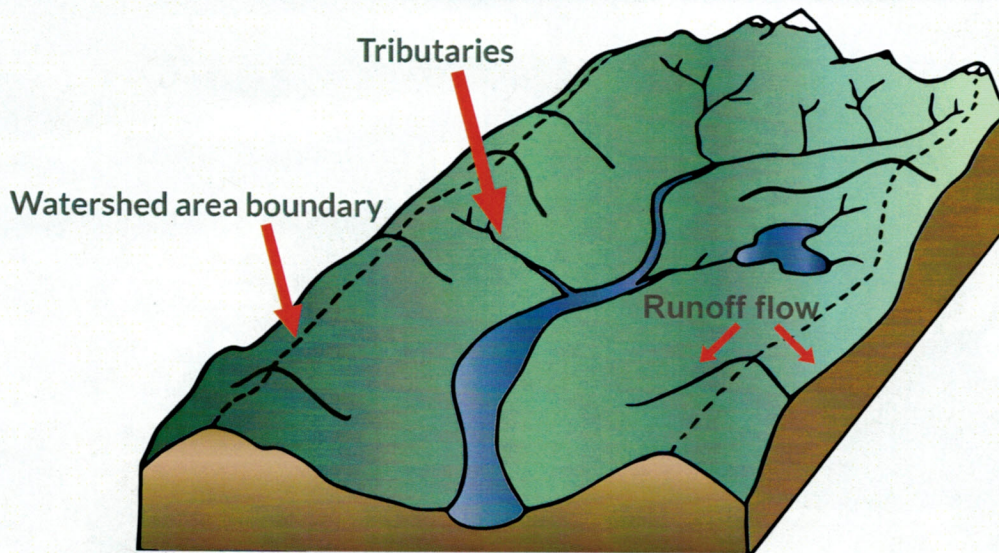
It is also unlawful to:

- Use a snowmobile to cross a frozen intake pond
- Develop a snowmobile trail or install a culvert or bridge without a permit
- Ice fish in intake ponds
- Refuel within 150 metres of a body of water

No activities are permitted within the following environmental buffer zones:

Intake pond or lake	150 m
River intake	150 m for 1 km upstream and 100 m downstream
Main river channel	75 m
Major tributaries, lakes or ponds	50 m
Other water bodies	30 m





### How can snowmobiling affect the environment in a watershed?

Two-stroke engines common to snowmobiles discharge 30 per cent of their fuel mixture, unburnt directly into the atmosphere. Airborne emissions from snowmobiles can be deposited back in the watershed through precipitation and can include: nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, aldehydes, 1,3 butadiene, benzenes, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Trace amounts of acidic and toxic compounds from snowmobile exhaust can accumulate in the snow. When spring arrives and the snow melts, these compounds can enter surrounding waterbodies. Four-stroke engines are preferred as they have minimum harmful emissions. If a snowmobile is lost through the ice, or if gasoline is spilled while refueling on iced covered ponds, one litre of gasoline can contaminate 1,000,000 litres of water. Any accidental fuel spills must be cleaned up immediately and the appropriate town officials notified.

### Who suffers when water quality is impaired in a PPWSA?

Public health is a concern when a water supply becomes contaminated. The entire community may be placed on a boil water advisory or non-consumption order. Extensive water treatment processes or development of an additional water source may be necessary at great cost to the community and province. In addition, it is an offence to contravene the Water Resources Act.

### How do I know if I am in a PPWSA?

Warning signs are posted along access routes informing the public they are in a protected public water supply area. Try to avoid snowmobiling in a PPWSA, especially in the vicinity of the intake pond. Care should be taken not to damage the environment and to stay on designated trails.

You can find your community's PPWSA at [www.maps.gov.nl.ca/water](http://www.maps.gov.nl.ca/water)

Watersheds can also be viewed using Google Earth at [www.gov.nl.ca/mae/waterres/gis](http://www.gov.nl.ca/mae/waterres/gis)

### Let's work together to safeguard our water supplies.

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What you do on your property could potentially harm a community's drinking water.

## Do You Live within a Protected Public Water Supply Area?

### What is a Protected Public Water Supply Area?

A Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA) is an area of land around a source of public drinking water that has been protected under Section 39 of the Water Resources Act. The area of protected land is called a watershed and typically will include any land where all precipitation drains towards the water supply intake. The watershed area is generally based on topography.

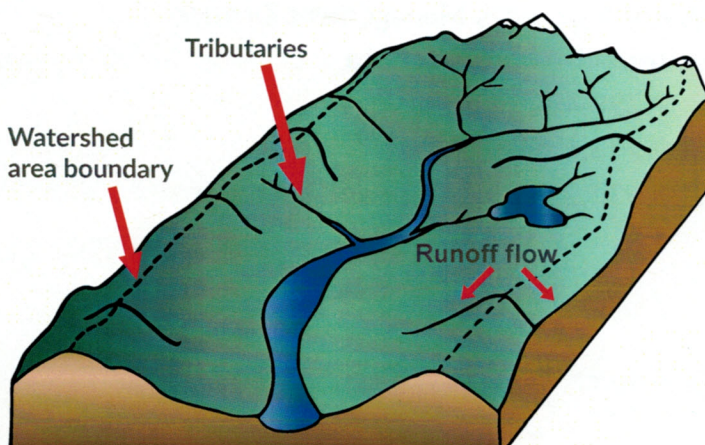
### Am I inside a PPWSA?

If you are unsure whether you fall within one of these protected areas, you can check the mapping application within the Water Resources Portal here: [maps.gov.nl.ca/water](https://maps.gov.nl.ca/water), call your community office, or contact the nearest Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) office.

### Why is it important I be aware of the PPWSA?

As your property is located within a PPWSA, you are required to apply for approval to complete any major activities and developments under the Water Resources Act. This regulatory process is in place to help preserve the water quality of the source and is governed by Policy Directive W.R. 95-01. Should a drinking water contamination event be traced back to your property, you could be liable under the Act. The Act and Policy Directive can be found here:

[mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/regulations/index.html](https://mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/regulations/index.html)





New residential developments will not be approved within the below listed buffer zones around waterbodies. If you already reside within these buffer zones, additional restrictions may apply to your property. Standard buffer zones are as follows:

Water Body	Width of Buffer Zones
Intake pond or lake	a minimum of <b>150 metres</b>
River intake	a minimum of <b>150 metres</b> for a distance of one km upstream and 100 m downstream
Main river channel	a minimum of <b>75 metres</b>
Major tributaries, lakes or ponds	a minimum of <b>50 metres</b>
Other water bodies	a minimum of <b>30 metres</b>

#### What requires a permit application?

- Construction of a residence
- Accessory buildings that include ground disturbance (e.g. shed)
- Installation or replacement of a septic system
- Installation or replacement of a water well
- Replacement of a heating oil storage tank
- Demolition of buildings
- Clearing land or paving
- Major landscaping that include ground disturbance
- Installation of a bridge or culvert
- Expansion of a driveway

#### What activities do not require a permit application?

- Regular maintenance of your property including:
  - Lawn mowing
  - Snow removal
  - Removal of dead or fallen trees
- Tree/flowerbed planting
- Domestic home gardening
- Painting or renovations that do not require ground disturbance

Ground disturbance includes activities such as:

- excavating
- digging/backfilling
- trenching
- drilling/auguring
- topsoil stripping

A good rule of thumb is: **if you need to use heavy equipment, you will need to apply for a permit.** If you are unsure if an activity or development requires a permit, please contact the nearest WRMD office.

#### How do I apply for a permit?

Applications can be found online: [mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/regulations/appforms/index.html](http://mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/regulations/appforms/index.html)

If you have questions or need help with this application, please call the nearest WRMD office.

#### How long will a permit take?

PPWSA permits typically take four to six weeks to process, so be sure to apply early. All applications are initially reviewed for completeness, and then referred to the community for a minimum 15-day review and comment period. WRMD will assess each application on an individual basis and will recommend either approval, modification, or rejection of the application.

#### Let us work together to safeguard our drinking water supplies.

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