Celebrate Drinking Water Week, May 4-10, 2014

Get to Know Your H₂O!

True and False Quiz

1. Most tap water in British Columbia is not safe to drink. T    F

2. British Columbians use less water each day compared to other Canadians. T    F

3. In BC, we use up to 50% more water in the winter time. T    F

4. Most of our indoor water use occurs in the bathroom. T    F

5. Water levels in our groundwater wells have risen over the last 5 years. T    F

6. Increases in our population, the growth of industry and agriculture, and the effects of climate change all place enormous pressure on our water supplies. T    F

7. Without an adequate supply of water, we will still be able to maintain our health, our economy, and our environment without too many problems. T    F

8. In British Columbia, all of our water infrastructure (our water and wastewater treatment plants, water mains, reservoirs, and sewer pipes) is brand new and does not need regular repairs. T    F

9. After our used water (wastewater) is treated, it is returned to the environment. T    F

10. If we take less water from our lakes and rivers, we reduce the risk of harming the sensitive aquatic ecosystems that exist in these environments. T    F

Answers:

A10: True. When we take water from our lakes and rivers, we may upset salmon habitats and other aquatic creatures that are sensitive to their environment.

A1: False. Water continually cycles through the environment. Our used water is treated for human and household wastes, and is then released (often to the same body of water). Members of the BC Water & Wastewater Association and environmental groups are always looking for ways to reduce the amount of pollutants entering our water systems and keep them safe for people to use.

A9: True. Members of the BC Association of Water & Wastewater Professionals can provide valuable water quality data that is important to the health and safety of all communities. The water we use is tested to ensure that it is safe to drink.

A8: False. We cannot be water wasters as our water supply is limited. We need to conserve water to keep our environment healthy.

A7: False. We need water to keep us healthy.

A6: False. Even though we know that fresh water is a precious resource, there are many things that we do that cause water to be wasted. For example, we use up to 2.5% of our water in BC during the summer months for irrigation, and 5% for cleaning.

A5: False. Water levels in 35% of our groundwater wells in BC have declined in the past 5 years because of human activity, we are using more water than the water we have.

A4: False. We use up to 50% more water in summer when people are watering lawns and gardens.

A3: False. British Columbians each use an average of 490 L of water per day. Canadians use 340 L per day — over double what Europeans use.

A2: False. Waterborne diseases that affect people in developing countries.

A1: False. Top water in BC is among the safest in the world. Our high standards for water quality prevent many serious health problems.

BCWWA
BC WATER & WASTE ASSOCIATION

www.drinkingwaterweek.org

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COMMUNITY WATER CHALLENGE