

# Celebrate Drinking Water Week, May 4-10, 2014

## Get to Know Your H<sub>2</sub>O!

### True and False Quiz

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|---|---|---|
| 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**

A1 F: Tap water in BC is amongst the safest in the world. Our high standards for water quality prevent many waterborne diseases that affect people in developing countries.

A2 F: British Columbians each use an average of 490L of water per day. Canadians use 340L per day — over double what Europeans use.

A3 F: We use up to 50% more water in summer when people are watering lawns and gardens.

A4 T: We use 65% of our water in the bathroom, 20% for laundry, 10% for drinking and kitchen needs, and 5% for cleaning.

A5 F: Water levels in 35% of our groundwater wells in BC have declined in the past 5 years because of human activity.

A6 T: Even though we have much of Canada's fresh water supply, there are many growing demands placed on our water in BC.

A7 F: We need water to keep us healthy, fight fires, support our economy, and provide us with the high quality of life we enjoy in BC.

A8 F: Many BC communities have aging water infrastructure that needs repairs or replacing. Thousands of qualified people must be employed to maintain our water systems and keep them safe. 4400 of these people are members of the BC Water & Waste Association.

A9 T: Water continually cycles through the environment. Our used water is treated for human and household wastes, and is then returned (often to the same body of water).

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