



## Discoloured Water in Casselman: Update

**October 23, 2019** – These past few months, some residents in The Municipality of Casselman have experienced discoloured water caused by manganese present in the South Nation River, the source water that supplies drinking water to the community. Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral that is widely distributed in air, water, and soil.

Unfortunately, climate and environmental conditions can impact the concentrations of manganese and this past summer, lower than normal water levels in the South Nation River and the use of different chemicals resulted in higher concentrations of manganese than in previous years. This led to a longer than usual period during which the drinking water in Casselman was discoloured. In fact, there is still some discolouration present for some residents due to manganese still present in the source water, and there is still the possibility of further discolouration events in the future based on environmental conditions.

Although the water discolouration is unpleasant aesthetically, **the drinking water produced at the Casselman Water Treatment Facility was – and is now – in full compliance with provincial drinking water regulations and is safe to drink.** Both the source water and treated water are regularly tested by the Facility operator, Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), as per the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regulations.

### Future Plans to Address Water Discolouration

We understand that this discolouration has caused frustration for residents, and we have been working diligently to address this. The Municipality is currently working with OCWA to identify a permanent solution to address this issue. Experts will be on site this month to evaluate various treatment options, and the Municipality will work with OCWA to decide on the best solution based on the findings.

Once again, we do understand your frustration and we appreciate your continued patience while we work through this complex issue. We will continue to provide updates via the Municipality's website throughout this process: [www.casselman.ca](http://www.casselman.ca).

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact OCWA's Senior Operations Manager, Maurice Benoit, at 613-764-9383.**