

## **Water System Update for Residents**

We have had some inquiries from residents regarding the Boil Water Notice. The Boil Water Notice remains in effect until further notice. Any decision to downgrade to a Boil Water Advisory will be made by Interior Health, based on water quality assessments.

Starting September 9, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) will take over operations of the water system. Please note that the full transition from SEID to RDOS will be completed in January.

We extend our sincere thanks to South Okanagan Water Works Ltd. for their dedicated service and support over the past several years.

We appreciate your continued patience and cooperation.

## **Right to Clean Water Initiative**

Across the Boundary—Similkameen and South Okanagan—including Kaleden, Olalla, Skaha Estates, Heritage Hills, and Osoyoos—residents are living with aging water systems, recurring advisories, and infrastructure costs that far exceed local capacity.

This is not a failure or critique of local municipalities or the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. It is a failure of provincial equity. Infrastructure costs and chronic advisories

- Skaha Estates faces an estimated \$15.5 million in infrastructure improvements.
- Heritage Hills needs \$13.53 million in upgrades to modernize its water system and meet provincial health objectives.

As of April 2025, Interior Health lists 503 active boil water advisories across the region—an alarming number that underscores the scale of neglect. These advisories disproportionately affect small and rural systems, many of which have been under warning for years.

## **Funding disparity under the Growing Communities Fund**

The Province allocated \$1 billion in one-time grants to local governments in 2023. Surrey received \$89.9 million and Vancouver \$49.1 million. While the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) received just \$10.5 million.

The funding formula—based on population and growth—fails to account for the high per-capita infrastructure costs in rural areas.

Provincial acknowledgment of rural pressures

During the May 1, 2025, Committee A Estimates debate, the Minister of Municipal Affairs stated: “We recognize that rural communities face unique infrastructure challenges, especially in water systems that haven’t seen investment in decades.”

**What needs to happen?**

1. Dedicated provincial funding for small and rural water systems, sized to actual upgrade needs—not just population.
2. A regional infrastructure plan to eliminate chronic advisories and modernize systems.
3. Cross-agency collaboration among the Province, Interior Health, RDOS, and local purveyors to align oversight with investment.

Boundary-Similkameen and South Okanagan families should not have to boil water indefinitely or face unaffordable rate hikes just to meet basic health standards. It is time for the Province to treat drinking water in the Interior as a public health priority—not a budget afterthought.

Residents are encouraged to reach to your MLA and MP.

Please consider signing the petition and spreading the word. <https://chnng.it/xtZr95qcXk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577432682251>



Thanks for the info.  
Thanks for the update.  
Thanks for the heads up.