



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Woes Continue in Constance Lake First Nation:

Community Outraged with INAC Decision to Reduce Drinking Water Supply

Constance Lake First Nation, November 19th, 2010- Leadership of Constance Lake First Nation are outraged following what they call a very “unacceptable move” by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). For the last three months, the community has been without a water source as membership relies on bottled water. However, the Northern First Nation has recently learned that the amount of water being supplied is being reduced tremendously.

As of November 15th, INAC has reduced the amount of bottled water supplied from six litres per person, per day, to 1.5 litres. Chief Arthur Moore of Constance Lake First Nation says; “I am absolutely outraged with this decision. Access to a safe and useable water supply is the right of every person living in this country. Each province and territory has legislation to provide clean, safe and reliable drinking water to its citizens. Why should it be different for my community?”

A letter from Health Canada addressed to the Constance Lake First Nation dated October 20, 2010, recommended that the following water supply guidelines be followed in the community:

- Adult- 1.5 L per day for drinking water purposes
- Child- 1.0 L per day for drinking water purposes
- Additional water need for personal hygiene- 4.5 L per day

Chief Moore says; “The recent reduction, doesn’t even follow the health guidelines provided to my community just last month, with additional water needed for personal hygiene. In general, doctors recommend a healthy adult consume 2.2 litres of water per day; that doesn’t include those that are active, have poor health conditions, and pregnant women. I continue to fear that the lack of clean water will lead to despair and ill health for the people of Constance Lake First Nation.”

In late July, Constance Lake First Nation declared a state of emergency as 900 residents in the Northern community had been without water for more than a week. A thick layer of algae formed over the lake that was the main water supply for the community. To date, the First Nation remains under a boil water advisory.



The community is also fearful that getting bottled water into the community is going to soon become a serious issue as the recent water supplier from Cochrane, Ontario, has terminated their contract to transport the water.

Constance Lake First Nation has spent more than 56-thousand dollars of community funding on bottled water for membership that INAC has yet to reimburse.

-30-

Note to Editor:

- Constance Lake First Nation is 32 kilometres west of Hearst, Ontario.
- Constance Lake First Nation has a population of about 1300 members.

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