

# Province's water system isn't corroded: study

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THE TELEGRAM

Corrosion and lead don't appear to be a major concern in the province's drinking water system, according to a new study released Thursday by the provincial government.

But according to Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador president Graham Letto, corrosion is the

least of the issues facing drinking water in small communities.

"That's only one aspect of it, the lead content," he said.

"There's still, at any given time, over 200 boil orders or boil water advisories."

The study done by the Department of Environment and Conversation tracks corrosion in various communities' water systems by testing for lead.

The broad conclusion was that

corrosion isn't a serious issue, with only three per cent of samples tested at more than 10 micrograms of lead per litre. Communities that had test samples showing above acceptable levels of lead were Ferryland, Fogo, Brigus, Corner Brook, La Scie and Churchill Falls. However, even in those communities, the average rate overall was still acceptable.

"We remain the only province that directly undertakes drinking water

quality monitoring and reporting of all its public water supplies and we are pleased to provide the results of any studies we undertake," said Environment Minister Charlene Johnson in a news release. "Based on the review of available information, lead soldering and older brass faucets and fixtures in residential homes may be the probable cause of elevated levels of lead in some residences."

Letto said that he found the results

encouraging, but more broadly, the water systems in many small communities are in trouble.

"These are troublesome times for our water system and we have to address that," he said.

"Drinking water, it has been an issue for some time but I think finally it's getting its due respect and due attention."

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