



August 2015,

Dear Peace River Region Resident:

The province has been working closely with Simon Fraser University over the past 5 years on a pilot project to improve our understanding of groundwater in the rural area surrounding Dawson Creek. The study to date, has included sampling private wells and springs, drilling observation wells and conducting non-invasive geophysical surveys along roadways and in fields to create a picture of how groundwater is connected through the Peace River basin. We expanded the project in 2014 to sample water wells and springs in the rural areas and municipalities of the entire Peace River regional district. We are continuing this effort in 2015 with a primary focus to gain samples from water wells and springs in the area that runs from Upper Halfway through Prespatou and down to Doig River. Residents from all areas of the Peace are invited to participate.

The immediate benefits to participating residents include being provided with the results of water analyses and the opportunity for a one-to-one discussion, at your convenience, to interpret those results. Your contribution to this initiative will lead to improved water security for residents who depend on well water for domestic and agricultural needs. This project will also allow the comparison of private wells to the growing provincial observation well network in the Peace.

Our methods:

1. Determine accurate elevation of water table using sonar inside existing water wells and GPS at the surface.
2. Measure pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and oxidation/reduction potential on site.
3. Collect water samples from water wells and springs that will be sent to Simon Fraser University and other partner laboratories for analyses of metals, cations, anions, hardness, dissolved gases and various isotopes.
4. Addresses and names will be kept strictly confidential. Any publications will not directly identify location. Total time to sample a well is approximately 1 hour.

If you have a water well or a spring or you know someone who does and may be interested, we encourage your participation in this initiative. Please contact Catherine Henry at (250) 782-9852 or by email: [groundwaterstudy@gmail.com](mailto:groundwaterstudy@gmail.com) to schedule a sampling time that works for you. If you would like more information or further discussion, please contact Chelton van Geloven by phone at 250-981-3162 or by email [Chelton.vanGeloven@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chelton.vanGeloven@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

**Chelton van Geloven, R.P.F.**  
Source Water Protection Hydrologist