

Kamloops, British Columbia Water Treatment: Award Winning Project

The City of Kamloops faced an aging water treatment system in the late 1990's. For four years, routine 'boil water' orders were in effect because of high levels of sediment in the City's main water source. City Council faced a powerful corporate PR lobby to not only work with the private sector in the design and construction of a new facility but to hand over operation and maintenance as well.

Following a strong community campaign in support of public water, the Kamloops Centre for Water Quality was publicly built. Coming in well under the cost, the project was fully operational in 2005. Public financing was supported with the help of federal and provincial infrastructure funding and a \$16.7 million low-interest loan provided through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund.

Each day the plant treats up to 160 million litres of drinking water for the community using membrane filtration technology, the largest of its kind in North America. The

City has also been a partner in developing a new Centre for Safe Water Excellence at Thompson University.

The Public Works Association, naming it Project of the Year for 2005, recognized Kamloops for its excellence. In December 2006, the City continued to receive accolades when the Canada Green Building Council awarded a (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) LEED® Gold Certification for providing high quality drinking water and meeting high environmental standards for conservation and sustainability.

Kamloops has demonstrated that commitment and collaboration from citizens and local governments can make a difference. Public control gives municipalities and regional governments the power to approach community needs in creative, innovative and sustainable ways. Fiscal, environmental and community responsibilities can co-exist in our solutions to support public services.

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