

**STRAIGHT from
the SOURCE**



Public Engagement Session Lake Major Watershed Regulations

Welcome to Halifax Water's Public Engagement Session

Scan this QR code or use
this URL to learn more:



halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA

Purpose of these Meetings

Ensure that local communities, neighbouring the Lake Major Protected Water Area, are involved in any potential changes to provincial regulations related to this area.

Highlight existing inconsistencies in the current regulations for the Lake Major Protected Water Area.

Engage local residents to gather feedback and help inform any recommended changes to the regulations to the Government of Nova Scotia.



Background

In 2021, inconsistencies were identified in the Lake Major Protected Water Area Regulations which have created confusion and enforcement issues (gaps) for Halifax Water.

The Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board agreed with the inconsistencies and recommended Halifax Water make a request to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) to request a full public review of the regulations; found at: novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/envpwlmr.htm.

In early 2022, NSECC appointed Halifax Water to lead the Public Consultation Review Process to update the Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area (PWA) Designation and Regulations.

Halifax Water is committed to an open and transparent public consultation review process to gather information to update the Lake Major Watershed PWA Designation and Regulations.

The update will improve Halifax Water's ability to take a holistic approach to managing the

PWA and provide clarity to its customers and the general public on what activities are permitted within the PWA.

You can submit comments or feedback in writing at this session (ask a Halifax Water representative for a feedback sheet) or mail a letter to:

Lake Major Watershed Engagement Team
c/o Halifax Water 450 Cowie Hill Road
PO Box 8388 RPO CSC Halifax, NS B3K 5M1

Alternatively, you can complete our online feedback form at halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA.



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Lake Major PWA Regulation Inconsistencies

Activity	Existing PWA Regulations	PWA Regulation Inconsistencies / Omissions
Boating	Boats permitted up to 9.9 hp on all Lake Major PWA watercourses except for Long Lake where boating is not permitted.	Restricting boating on specific lakes creates confusion for the public and creates enforcement issues for Halifax Water.
Fishing	Fishing is permitted within the Lake Major watershed except within 100 m of Lake Major Intake. Fishing is also permitted on Long Lake, however, only from the shoreline.	Restricting fishing on specific areas of some lakes and not others creates confusion for the public and creates enforcement issues for Halifax Water.
Swimming	Swimming is permitted in Lake Major PWA except within 100 m of the intake; and is not permitted in Long Lake.	Restricting swimming on specific areas of some lakes and not others creates confusion for the public and creates enforcement issues for Halifax Water.
ATV/Motocross/Other Off-Road Vehicles	Recreational vehicles are not permitted on, or over, Long Lake or Lake Major.	Omission of off-highway vehicle use on land within the PWA has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Pets	Not included in the current PWA Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to pet activities within the PWA, has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Water Withdrawal	Not included in the current PWA Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to water withdrawal activities within the PWA has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Watercourse & Wetland Setbacks/Buffers	Not included in the current PWA Regulations. Setbacks and buffers controlled by HRM (development) and the province (forestry) are not articulated in the PWA Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to watercourse setbacks and buffers within the PWA has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Docks & Wharfs	Not included in the current PWA Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to docks and wharfs within the PWA has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Boat Launch	Not included in the current PWA Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to boat launches within the PWA, has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.

Public Consultation Timeline

Stage 1 – Public Consultation Sessions

- Five In-Person Sessions between Sept. 20 & Oct. 11, 2022
- One Online Session on Oct. 19, 2022
- Nov. 18, 2022 – Stage 1 comments must be received by Halifax Water.

Find engagement session details
or register for our online session at
[halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA.](https://halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA)

Stage 2 – Public Consultation on Proposed Changes

- Dec. 19, 2022 – Proposed changes to the Lake Major Watershed PWA Regulations public review period begins.
- Jan. 19, 2023 – Stage 2 comments must be received by Halifax Water, ending the Public consultation period.

Stage 3 – Proposed Regulation Amendment submitted

- End of January 2023 – Proposed amendments submitted to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change for review and approval.

Public notification and implementation of the Lake Major PWA Regulations is expected to occur in 2023 following the province's approval of the changes.



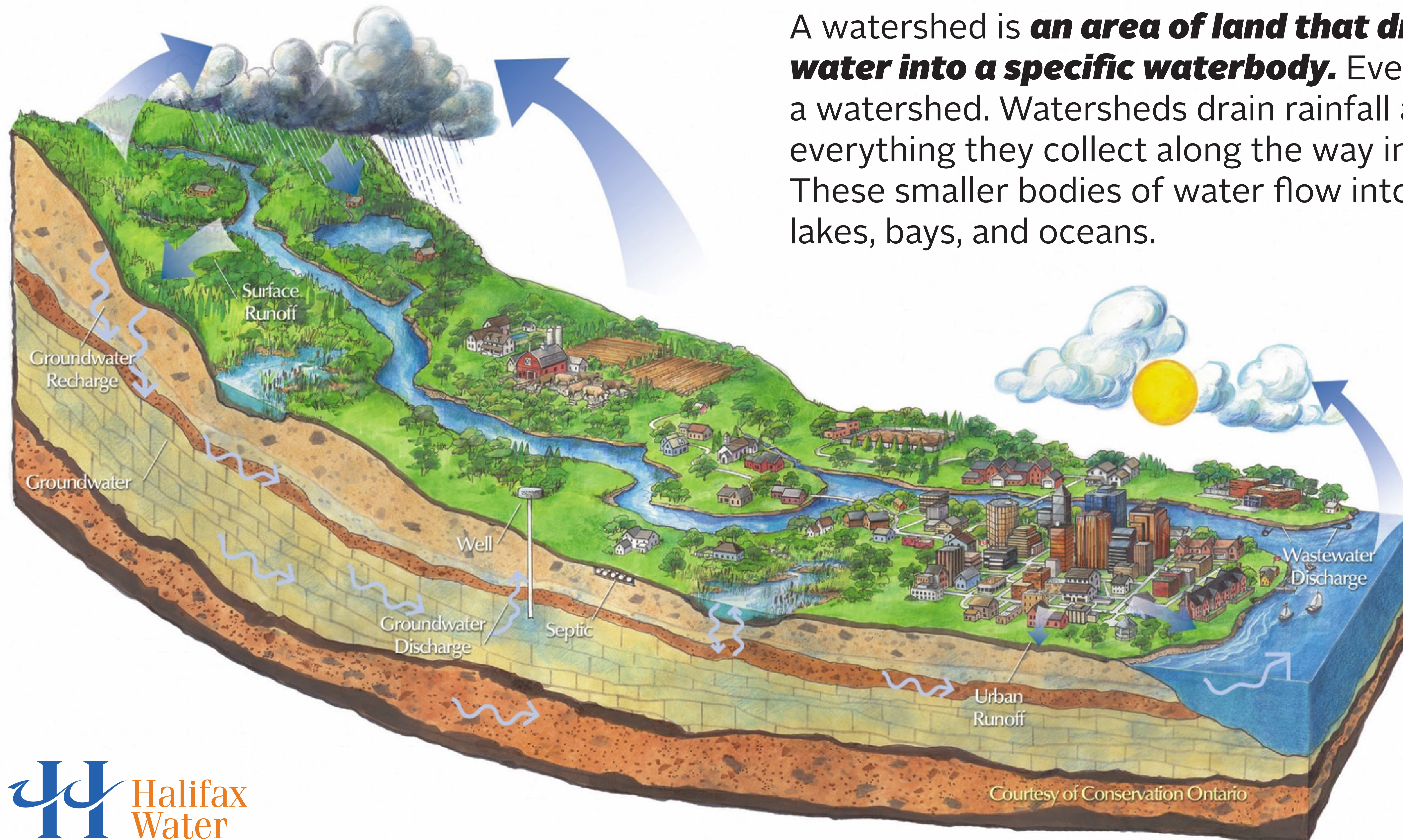
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[**halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA**](https://halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA)

What is a Watershed?

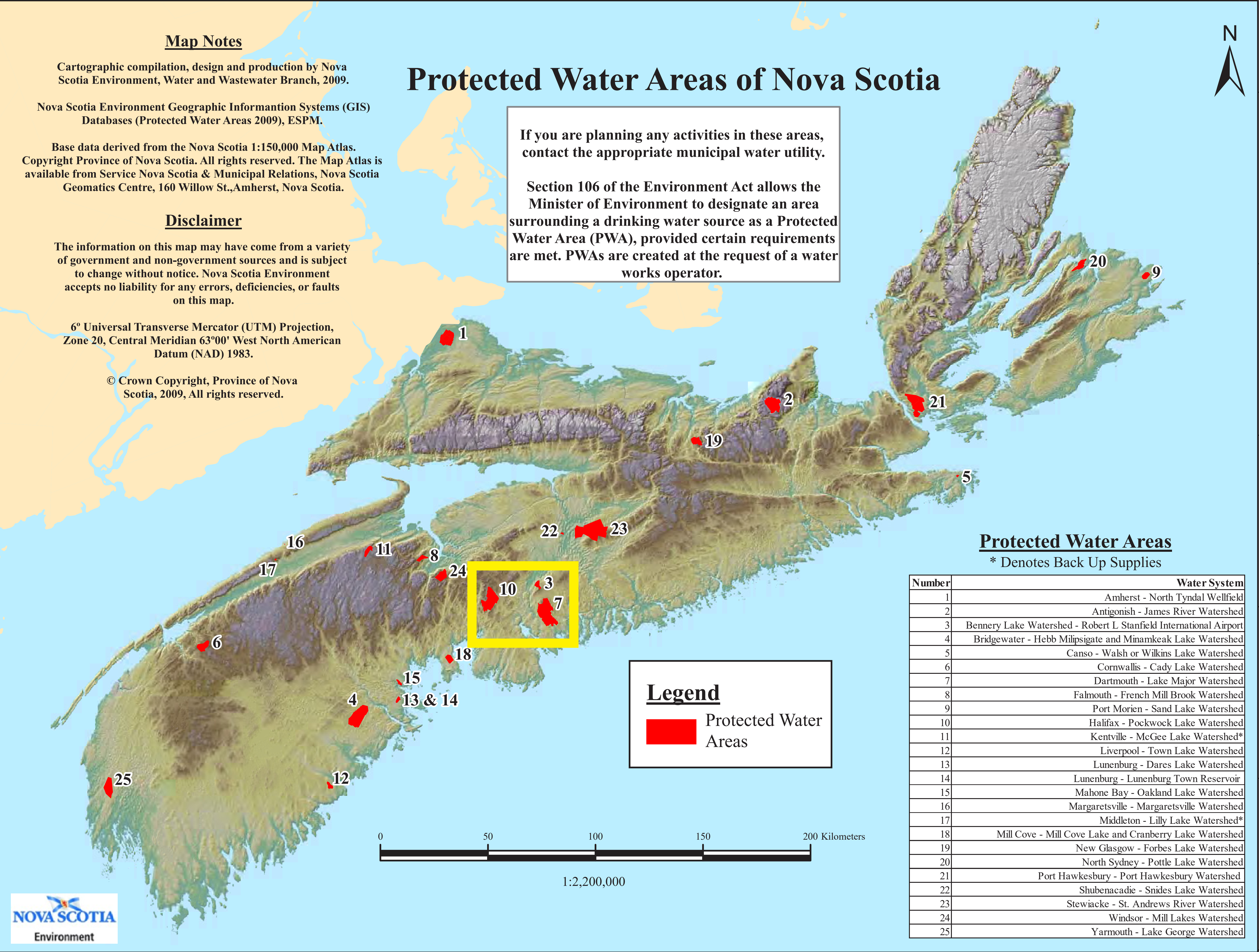
A watershed is ***an area of land that drains or “sheds” water into a specific waterbody.*** Every body of water has a watershed. Watersheds drain rainfall and snowmelt and everything they collect along the way into streams and rivers. These smaller bodies of water flow into larger ones, including lakes, bays, and oceans.



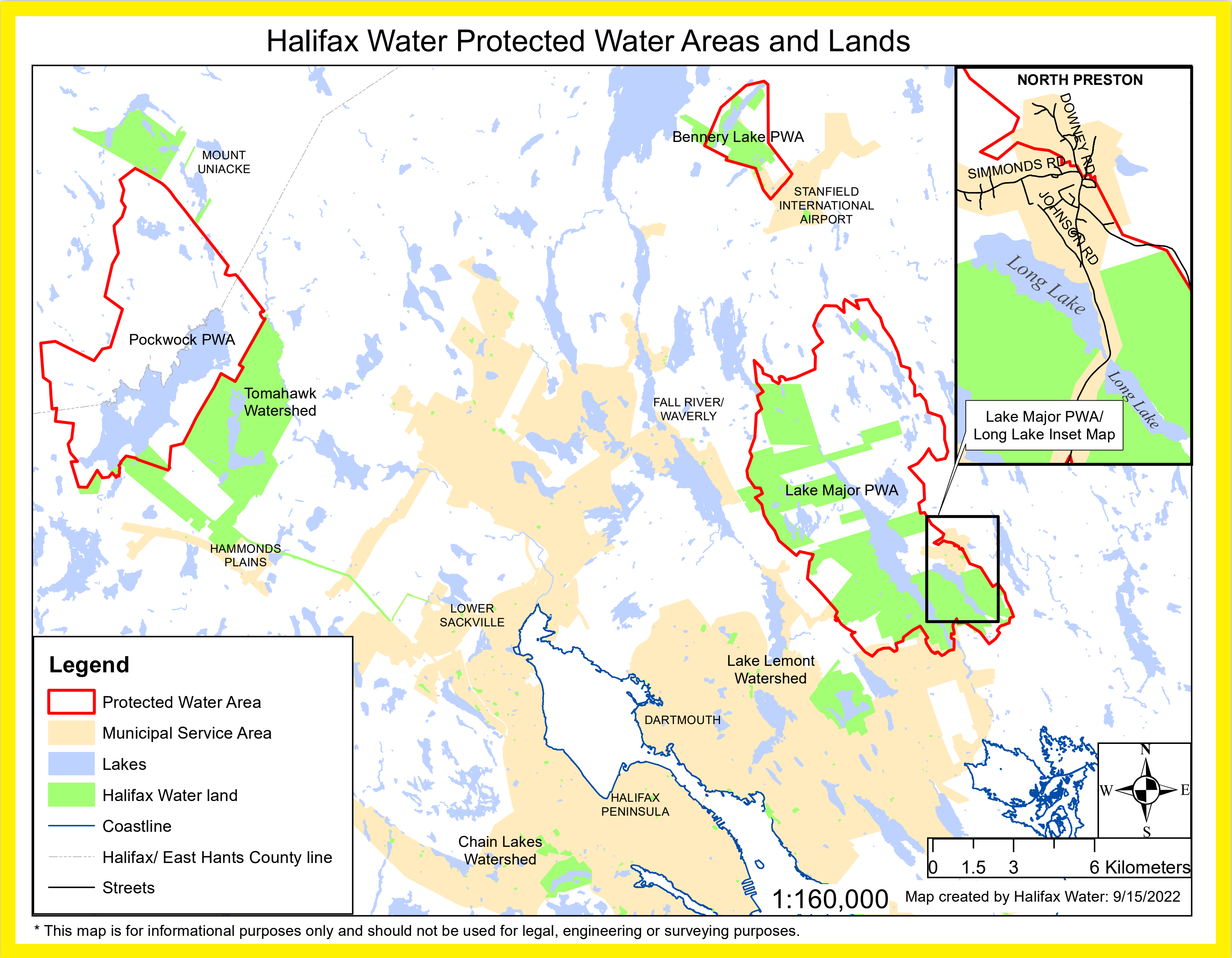
Courtesy of Conservation Ontario



Protected Water Areas (PWAs) of Nova Scotia



There are 25 Designated Protected Water Areas throughout Nova Scotia.



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halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA

Designated Protected Water Areas in Nova Scotia

Each Protected Water Area has its own set of regulations.

Year Designated		2003	1986	2007	1983	2006	2006	2005	2003	1968	1994	1992	1992	1992	1988	1964	1971	1971	1973	1972	1971	1967	1967	1966	1966	1965	1965	1964	1964	
Year Updated		2013	2010		2007					2002						1986	1982	1982												
Water Supply Area		Bennery Lake Watershed (Aerotech Park—HRM)	Lake Major Watershed (Dartmouth)	Oakland Lake Watershed (Mahone Bay)	French Mill Brook Watershed (Falmouth)	Lake George Watershed (Yarmouth)	Hebb, Millisigate and Minamkeak Lake Watershed (Bridgewater)	McGee Lake Watershed (Kentville)	Forbes Lake Watershed (New Glasgow)	Shubenacadie Watershed (Snides Lake)	Pockwock Lake Watershed (Halifax)	North Tyndal Zone I (Amherst)	North Tyndal Zone II (Amherst)	North Tyndal Zone III (Amherst)	James River Watershed (Antigonish)	Mill Lakes Watershed (Windsor)	Port Hawkesbury Watershed Zone A	Port Hawkesbury Watershed Zone B	Stewiacke Watershed (St. Andrews River)	Dares Lake (Lunenburg)	Pottle Lake Watershed (North Sydney)	Mill Cove Lake and Cranberry Lake	Margaretsville Watershed	Lunenburg Town Reservoir	Lily Lake (Middletown)	Walsh or Wilkins Lake (Canso)	Cady Lake (Cornwallis)	Town Lake (Liverpool)	Sand Lake (Clare Bay)	
		Activity																												
		Industry	Pesticides	R	R	R	R	R	X	R		X	X	R	R	R	R	X	X	R		X								
		Forestry operations	R	R		R	R	R		R		R	R	R	R	R	R			R	R									
		Mine/pit/quarry/peat operations	X	R		R	X	R	X	X			X	X	X		R													
		Aquaculture																												
Agriculture	Grazing livestock			R	X	R	R	R	R	X		X	R	R						X										
	Crops					R	R												R											
	Storage/accumulation of agricultural and farm wastes, including manure		R	X	R	R	R	R	R			X	R	R		R			R											
	Spreading of manure			R		R			R			X	R	R					R											
Waste/ Dangerous Goods Management	Discharge/deposit of materials that impair water quality (e.g. gasoline, chemicals, sediment)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X										
	Disposal of wastes (landfill/waste disposal site)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	R	R	R	X	X									
	Discharge of domestic sanitary waste (e.g. on-site sewage disposal systems)	R	R	R		R	R	R	R			X	R	R	R				R	R										
	Home heating oil tanks			R		R		R	R																					
	Storage/handling of petroleum products	R			R	R		R	R						R				R											
	Storage of wood processing waste		R		R											R			R											
	Construction activity (e.g. home construction and home renovations)	R	R					R													X									
Construction Activities/ Development	Construction and maintenance of roads, railways, power and communication lines	R	R	R	R	R		R	R		R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R												
	Vegetation removal	R	R	R			R	R	R																					
	Soil erosion/sedimentation	R	R	R	X	R	X		R		R	R	R	R	R	R														
	Stormwater management	R					R	R							R															
	Watercourse/wetland alterations (includes docks and wharves)	R	R	R	R	R			R		R	R	R	R	R															
	Alteration of land levels	R			R			R																						
	Fishing	X	R	R	XR	R			R	X	X				R	R		R		R	X									
	Washing, bathing, swimming	X	XR	R	X	R	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X	R	X									
Recreation	Camping									X										R	X									
	Picnicking									X										R	X									
	Open fires (burning)	R	R			R			R	X	R	R	R	R	R						X									
	Skating				X	R				X								X												
	Hunting, trapping, carrying a firearm									X								X			X									
	Horseback riding/bicycling				R																									
	Cutting ice	X			X				X	R	X																			
	Boating (includes motorized vessels)	R	R	X	R	X		R	R	X	R				R	R		R	X	R	X									
	Vehicle and/or vessel washing	R	R		X	R		R	R	X	R				R															
	Use of motorized vehicles (e.g. snowmobiles, ATVs)	R	R	R	R	R	R				X	R				R			X	X										
Vehicles/ Machinery	Vehicle maintenance				X																									
	Refuelling (filling tanks or transferring fuel)	R	R	X	R			R	R		R				R						R									
	Removal of water				R					R																				

Protected Watershed Area		Lake Major	
Recreational Activity			
Communities Served	Dartmouth, Eastern Passage, Westphal, North		
Water Body	Lake Major		
Boats, Canoes, Kayaks (or any other vessel)	✖	Boat motors are restricted to 9.9 hp or less.	✖
Fishing	✖	Restricted to beyond 100 m of Lake Major water supply plant intake.	✔
Hunting	✔		✔
Swimming	✖	Restricted to beyond 100 m of Lake Major water supply intake.	✖
Docks/Wharves	✖	Requires NSECC approval.	✖
Off-highway vehicles (e.g. ATVs and snowmobiles)	✖		✖
Camp Fires	✖	No open fires from April 15 to October 15 inclusive, except barbecues and fireplaces designed for cooking or heating purposes. No open fires on lake ice.	✖
Tree Cutting	✖		✖
Trail Building	✖		✖
Littering	✖		✖

✖ Prohibited ✖ Restricted ✔ Permitted

Table of Recreational Activities Prohibited, Restricted and Permitted in Halifax Water’s Protected Water Areas

Recreational Activity	Protected Watershed Area	Lake Major				Pockwock		Bennery	
		Dartmouth, Eastern Passage, Cole Harbour, Westphal, North Preston				Halifax, Bedford, Sackville, Fall River, Waverley, Timberlea		Halifax Stanfield International Airport and Aerotech Park	
Communities Served									
Water Body	Lake Major		Long Lake		Pockwock Lake		Bennery Lake		
Boats, Canoes, Kayaks (or any other vessel)	✘	Boat motors are restricted to 9.9 hp or less.	✘		✘		✘		
Fishing	✘	Restricted to beyond 100 m of Lake Major water supply plant intake.	✔		✘		✘		
Hunting	✔		✔		✔		✔		
Swimming	✘	Restricted to beyond 100 m of Lake Major water supply intake.	✘		✘		✘		
Docks/Wharves	✘	Requires NSECC approval.	✘		✘		✘		
Off-highway vehicles (e.g. ATVs and snowmobiles)	✘		✘		✘		✘	Restricted to landowners' own property.	
Camp Fires	✘	No open fires from April 15 to October 15 inclusive, except barbecues and fireplaces designed for cooking or heating purposes. No open fires on lake ice.	✘	No open fires from April 15 to October 15 inclusive, except barbecues and fireplaces designed for cooking or heating purposes. No open fires on lake ice.	✘	No open fires from April 1 to October 31 inclusive.	✘	No open fires except barbecues or fireplaces designed for cooking purposes at a residential dwelling.	
Tree Cutting	✘		✘		✘		✘		
Trail Building	✘		✘		✘		✘		
Littering	✘		✘		✘		✘		

Prohibited Restricted Permitted For more details please visit <https://www.halifaxwater.ca/protected-water-areas>

Source: novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/protectedwaterareasregulations.pdf



Legend

X Activities Prohibited

R Activities Regulated

Scan this QR code or use this URL to learn more:

[halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA](https://www.halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA)

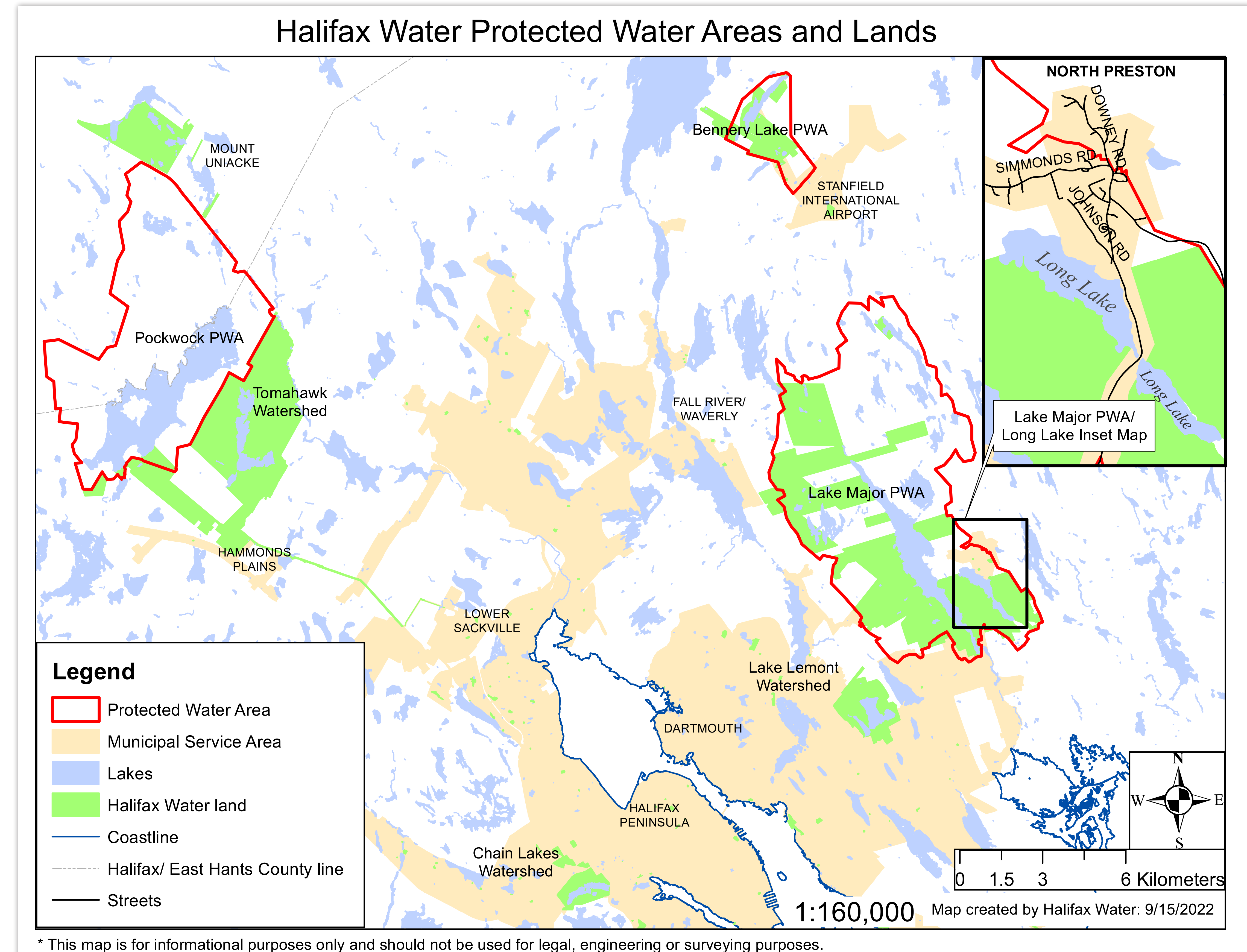
Understanding the PWA Governance Structure

Under section 106(3) of the Environment Act:

The **operator of a water works** or proposed water works is responsible for taking all measures to protect the area designated, and the enforcement of any regulations made pursuant to subsection (6).

Halifax Water, as the **operator of a water works**, manages and is responsible for three Designated PWAs and enforces the applicable PWA Regulations:

Lake Major Watershed PWA
Pockwock Lake Watershed PWA
Bennery Lake Watershed PWA



Provincial PWA Regulations vs. Municipal By-Laws

Protected Water Area (PWA) Regulations are NOT Land Use By-laws.

PWA regulations are a separate set of provincial regulations created under the Environment Act to regulate activities considered a risk to the water supply and surrounding area.

Land use by-laws are created and enforced by the applicable municipality (e.g., Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)). There are four (4) HRM Plan Areas, each with its own set of land use by-laws and policies governing the land use activities within the Lake Major PWA. These by-laws are the responsibility of HRM and are applied in addition to the PWA Regulations.

The following HRM Plan Areas fall within the PWA:

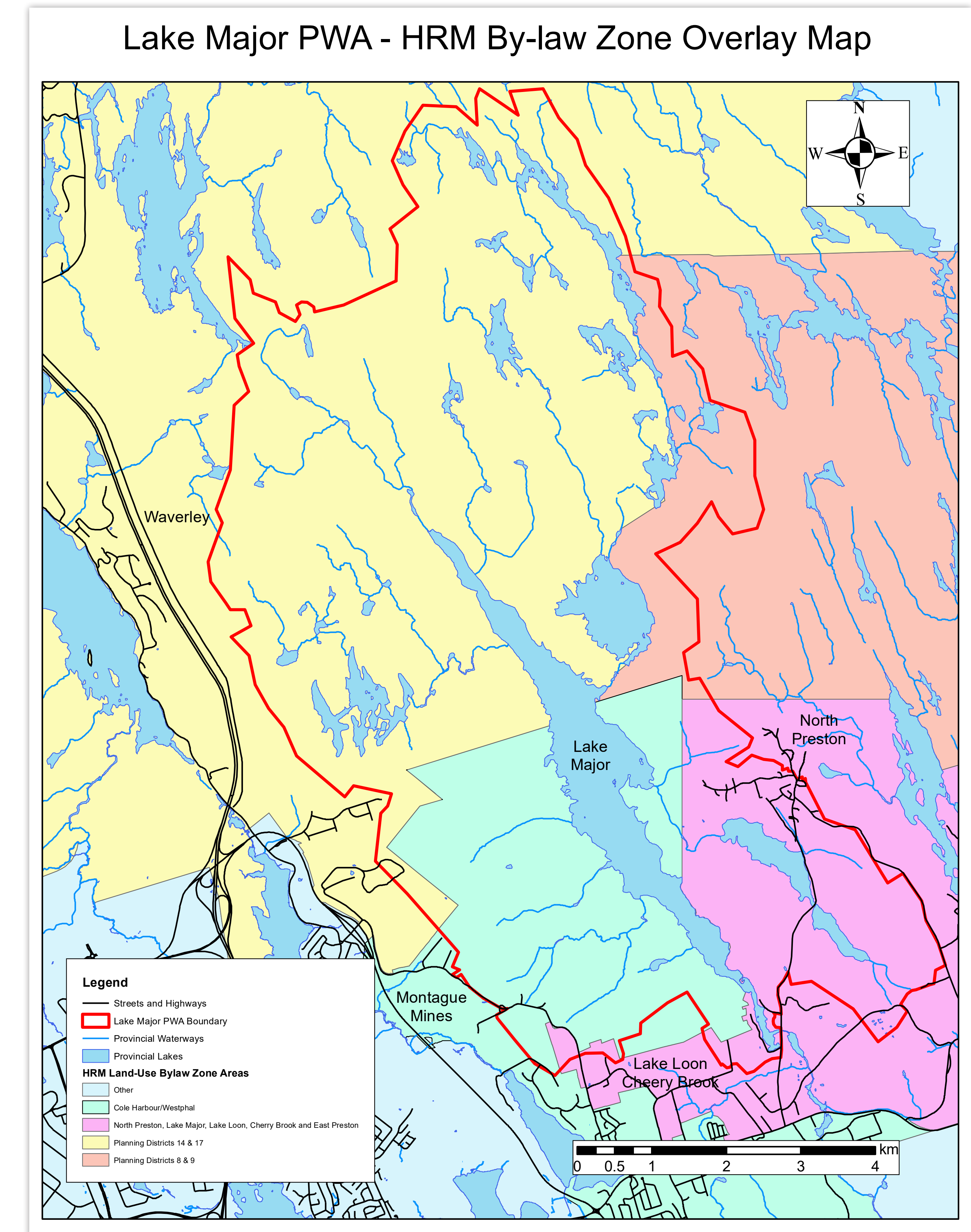
Districts 8 and 9 Lake Echo/Porters Lake;

Districts 14 and 17 Shubenacadie Lakes;

Cole Harbour/Westphal Plan Area; and

North Preston/Lake Major/Lake Loon/Cherry Brook/East Preston Plan Area.

To learn more about HRM land use by-laws please contact your local HRM Planning and Development Officer or visit halifax.ca/city-hall/legislation-by-laws.

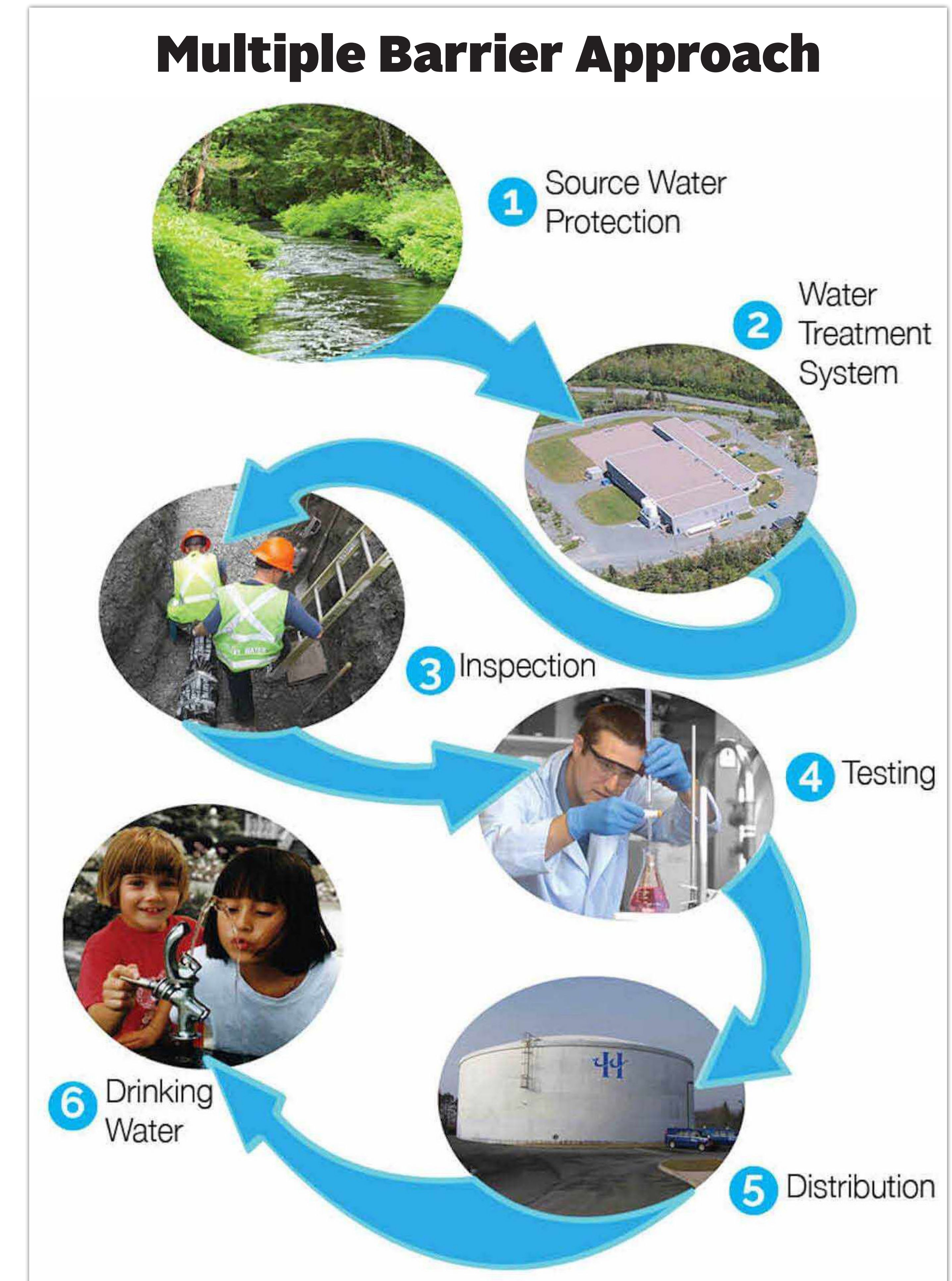


Source Water Protection

The first step in the Multiple Barrier Approach to providing safe, high-quality, reliable drinking water to the residents of HRM is Source Water Protection. Halifax Water is responsible for protecting the source water lakes and watersheds.

To ensure clean and safe drinking water, Halifax Water's Source Water Protection Program implements the following:

- Dedicated staff to maintain a presence on watershed lands;
- Comprehensive source water protection plans;
- Acquisition of watershed lands when possible;
- Forest management in water supply areas;
- Monitoring of land use activities;
- Collection of water samples to identify and monitor potential sources of contaminants;
- Enforcement of Protected Water Area regulations;
- Collaboration with provincial and municipal regulators and other stakeholders including the development of Best Management Practices;
- Engagement of outreach/educational opportunities with the public and other interested parties; and
- Industry-leading research opportunities.



Providing Feedback

With support from the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board and the Province, Halifax Water is hosting these public engagement sessions to help inform and seek input on potential amendments to these regulations.

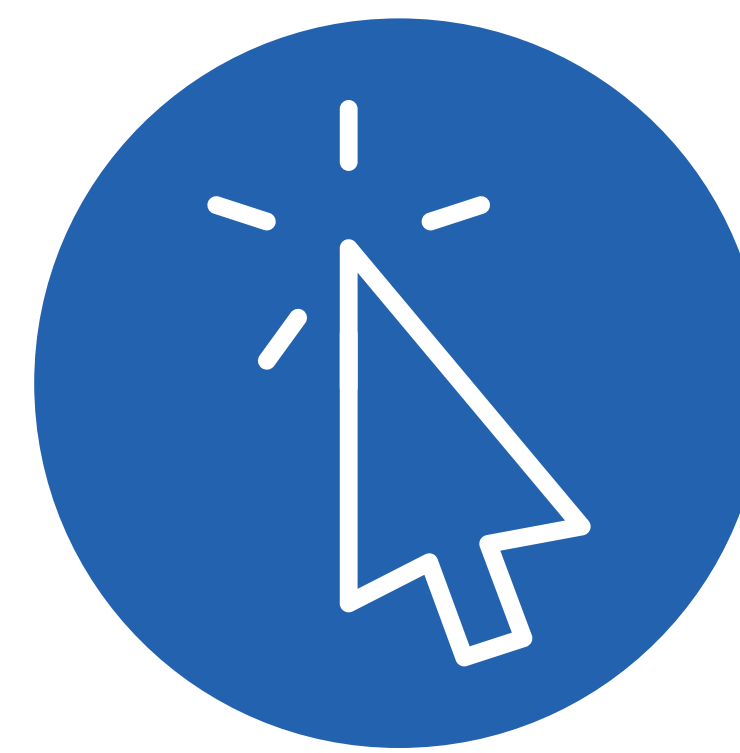
We welcome any comments or feedback you have. Comments/feedback from the public must be submitted to Halifax Water by November 18, 2022. Feedback will be gathered and shared with the Province.

There are three ways to provide feedback:



Fill out a feedback sheet at this public engagement session.

Feedback sheets and pens are available at the welcome desk and at the writing table in this room.



Fill out the online feedback form at: halifaxwater.ca/LMWPWA#feedback

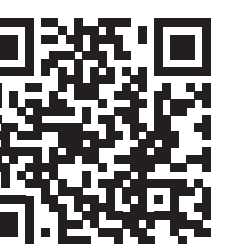


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c/o Halifax Water 450 Cowie Hill Road
PO Box 8388 RPO CSC Halifax, NS B3K 5M1



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