



Dezadeash Lake (left), and water quality sampling on Chance Creek in the Porcupine River watershed (above)

History of Water Management in Yukon

Water management activities range from regulating the use and deposit of waste into water to monitoring the quantity and quality of water. This Fact Sheet focuses on the evolution of water legislation and regulation in Yukon.

Prior to 1972, water-related management issues were peripherally dealt with under legislation such as the *Fisheries Act*, *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, and *Territorial Public Health Ordinance*.

On February 28, 1972 the *Northern Inland Waters Act* (Canada) came into force. A strict prohibition was placed on the use of water and the deposit of waste into water, unless pursuant to a licence or as authorized in the *Northern Inland Waters Regulations* (Canada), which came into effect on September 14, 1972. The *Northern Inland Waters Act* (Canada) provided for the establishment of the Yukon Territory Water Board and for a process to licence water use and waste disposal projects.

On June 15, 1993 the *Yukon Waters Act* (Canada) came into force when the *Yukon Waters Regulations* (Canada) were made. This Act replaced the *Northern Inland Waters Act* (Canada). The main drivers for this change were streamlining the licensing process and providing a better tool to more effectively manage Yukon water resources.

On April 1, 2003 the powers of the federal government in regard to water management in Yukon were delegated to the Yukon government. At this time, the *Waters Act* replaced the *Yukon Waters Act* (Canada) as mirror legislation (i.e. no substantive changes).

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**Water Resources Branch
Department of Environment
Government of Yukon**

**Phone: 867-667-3171
Web: YukonWater.ca
Email: Water.Resources@gov.yk.ca**