



March 31, 2022

## **The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier**

### ***2021 Annual Report – Public Water System***

#### ***Introduction***

This report is written as directed by Province of Manitoba Regulation 40/2007 – Drinking Water Safety – section 32.

#### ***Description of the System***

All the drinking water provided by the Rural Municipality (RM) of St. François Xavier water utility comes from the Cartier Regional Water Co-op Inc. (CRWCI), from its water plant located in in the RM of Headingley. CRWCI is jointly owned by the RMs of Cartier, Grey, Headingley, Portage la Prairie, Rockwood, Rosser, and St. François Xavier. The Co-op serves well over 10,000 people. It is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Manitoba Water Services Board. Water quality testing is the responsibility of CRWCI.

Within the RM of St. François Xavier, the Co-op not only provides water, it owns and manages the regional water lines and it owns and operates the St. François Xavier reservoir and pumping station. First, some customers take water directly from the regional lines. They are metered; the municipality reads the meters, and these readings constitute both production and sales. Second, most customers receive water from the reservoir over the municipal distribution system. These customers are metered.

The municipal utility owns and manages the distribution system which takes water from the reservoir to our residential, commercial and industrial customers, as well as related elements, such as fire hydrants. The municipal utility also owns a network of wastewater collection lines (low pressure sewer), which brings the wastewater to the municipal lagoon.

The RM of St. Francois Xavier has taken over technical supervision of the water utility, with our Public Works Supervisor being a trained water distribution operator and overseeing operations. The RM of St. Francois Xavier's plan is to have all of our Public Works staff be trained as water distribution operators by 2023.

The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier water utility serves 431 customers, up from 424 customers in 2020. There are 422 residential customers, 6 Commercial customers and 3 Industrial/Agricultural customers. This represents approximately 1475 people.

### ***Water Treatment***

The technical details of producing the drinking water, including treatment and disinfection may be found in the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative annual report. The municipal website contains a link to this report. Below are the standards applicable to the RM of St. Francois Water System under our operating license:

#### ***Water Quality Standards and Performance:***

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Quality Standard</b>
Total Coliform	Less than one total coliform bacteria detectable per 100 mL in all distributed water
<i>E. coli</i>	Less than one <i>E. coli</i> bacteria detectable per 100 mL in all distributed water
Chlorine Residual	A free chlorine residual of at least 0.1 mg/L at all times at any point in the water distribution system
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	Less than or equal to 0.10 mg/L as locational annual average of samples
Lead	Less than or equal to 0.005 mg/L
Manganese	Less than or equal to 0.12 mg/L

Water quality standards, and test results, are monitored by the Province's Office of Drinking Water. The 2021 Annual Audit Report, which is available at the municipal office, shows that the water delivered to the St. Francois Xavier water utility meets all regulatory requirements.

### ***Summary of Problems and Corrective Actions***

There have been no incidents of failure of the water system in 2021. Nor have there been any Drinking Water Safety Orders, Boil Water Advisories, or any charges laid under the Drinking Water Safety Act.

## ***Major Expenses and Capital Spending***

In 2021, the following capital and major maintenance spending was budgeted:

○ Meter reading software upgrade	\$7,000
○ Utility Rate Study	\$6,500
○ Water distribution system upgrade	\$25,000
○ Water model capacity study	\$30,000

Two new subdivision to the east of the village is adding a further 57 homes, with a corresponding expansion of the utility water and sewer lines. These lines will be transferred from the developer at some point in future.

## ***Other Information***

Water consumption by the St. François Xavier utility has grown, from 78,170 cubic metres in 2020, to 82,300 cubic metres in 2021.

The Public Utilities Board approved a simplified application for water/wastewater rates effective July 1, 2021(PUB order no 45/21). The PUB directed the RM to return to the board with a full utility rate study and rate application by December 31, 2021. The study has been prepared and submitted to the Public Utility Board for approval. The wholesale rate charged by the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative has been increasing annually including a 5% increase in 2022.

The annual surplus in the utility fund has been trending upward, and the expected new customers will add more revenue. The rate study and application submitted by Council will set rates for the period 2023 to 2026 inclusive. Council has also applied to the PUB for permission to pass through annual rate increases from CRWCI to customers.

Copies of this report are free upon request to the Municipal Office at 864-2092, and will be posted on the municipal website at [www.rm-stfrancois.mb.ca](http://www.rm-stfrancois.mb.ca).