

The AGWA project: Assessing Groundwater in the Whitehorse Area



The AGWA project aims to better understand the chemistry of groundwater underlying the City of Whitehorse and its surroundings. It is a 3-year project funded by the Government of Canada via the National Research Council's Arctic and Northern Challenge Program. In 2024 and 2025, the project team plans to collect and analyze hundreds of additional groundwater samples.

How is groundwater quality studied?

Groundwater samples are typically collected by pumping groundwater out of an aquifer via a well. The samples are then analyzed in the field and laboratories.

The AGWA project involves sampling both private domestic wells (supplying groundwater to houses) and environmental monitoring wells (used to monitor groundwater levels and/or quality for environmental purposes) in the Greater Whitehorse Area.

Private domestic wells are distributed across a greater area and tap a wider variety of aquifer types.

Sampling private domestic wells is a novel approach that is greatly enriching the data for the AGWA project.

Why is this work important?

The City of Whitehorse relies exclusively on groundwater as a potable water source. Many people get their water from unregulated private wells that are not tested by the government.

It is important to test the water for chemical and bacteriological contaminants to ensure the water is safe to drink.

This study will help to increase the understanding of baseline groundwater quality and how conditions are affected by natural and human factors.

How can I participate in the project?

Contact the AGWA team via email to be considered for free groundwater sampling.

Our partners



For more information, email
waterscience@yukon.ca

