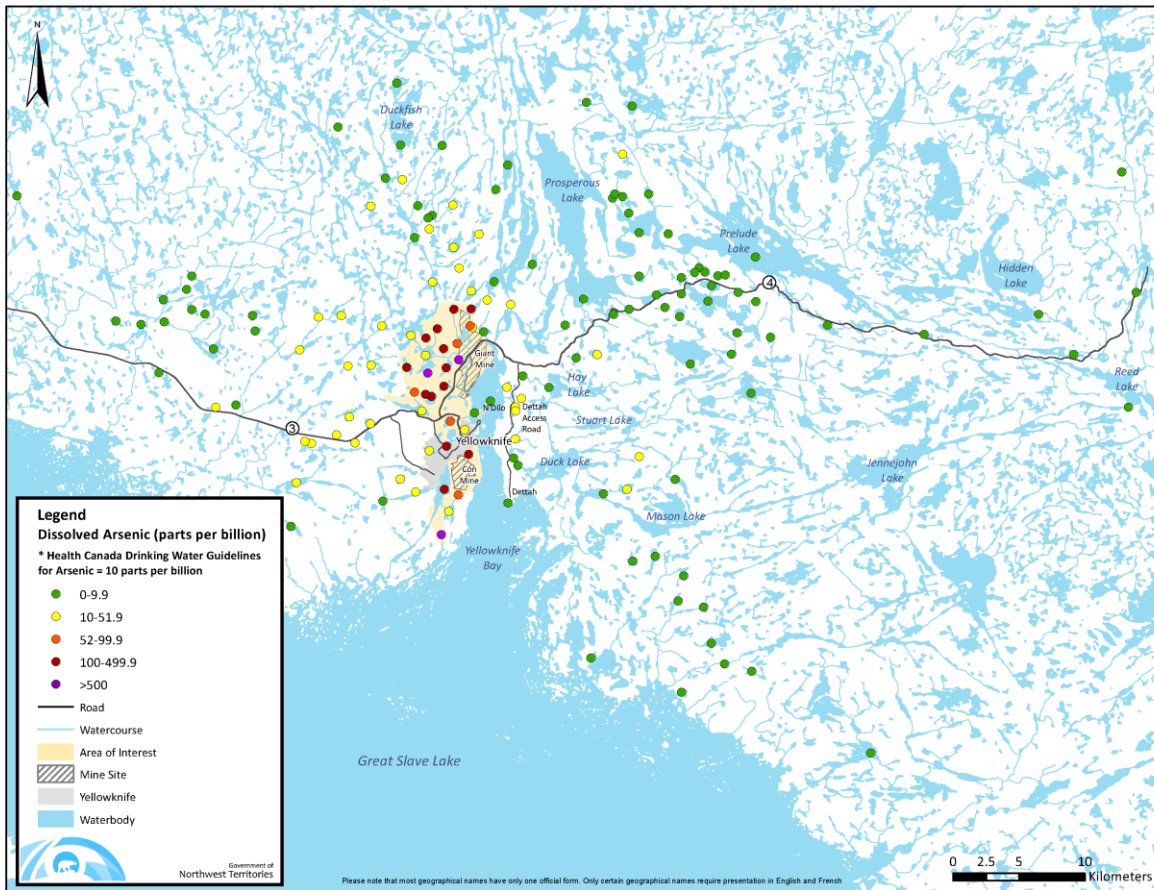




Map of Arsenic Concentrations Measured in Water Bodies in the Yellowknife Area with Corresponding Public Health Advice

UPDATED: July 5, 2019



Lakes with green points:

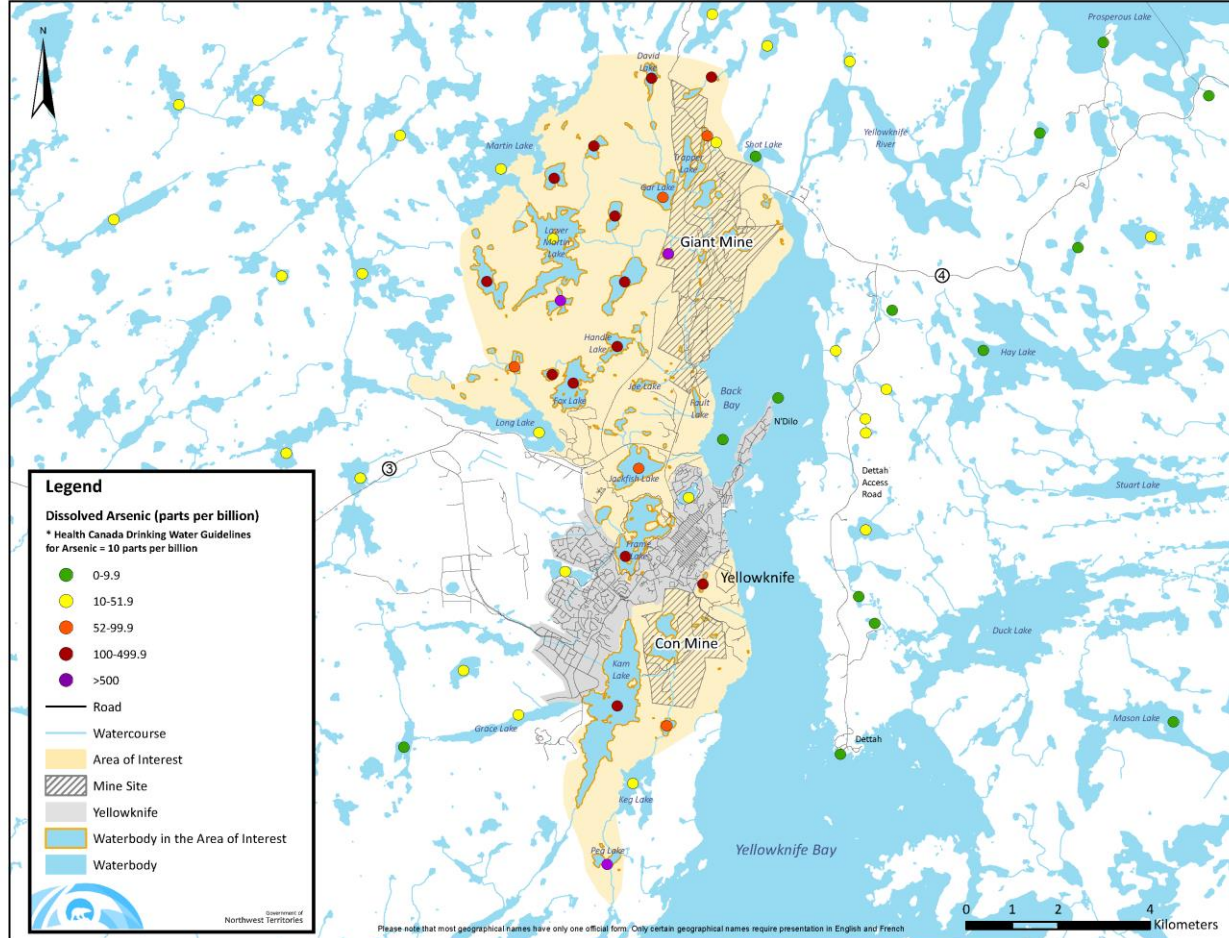
Arsenic levels are below Health Canada's drinking guidelines. It is recommended not to drink untreated water from any lake. However, these lakes are considered safe for swimming and fishing.

Lakes with yellow points:

Arsenic levels are above Health Canada's drinking water guidelines; however, occasional exposure does not pose a significant risk for arsenic-related health effects. It is recommended not to drink untreated water from any lake. These lakes are considered safe for swimming and fishing.

Lakes with orange, red or purple points:

Arsenic levels are elevated (52 parts per billion and above). Water should not be consumed from these lakes. It is also recommended to avoid fishing, swimming, and harvesting berries, mushrooms and other edible plants within the immediate vicinity of these lakes. However, walking through this area does not pose a health hazard.



Yellowknife River and Cameron River have been regularly tested for arsenic for many years and have always been shown to be well below drinking water guidelines. It is safe to swim and fish in these rivers; however it is recommended not to drink untreated water anywhere.

Data Sources:

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8. Palmer, M.J. (2018). Carleton University. Unpublished data.
9. Thienpont, J. (2017). University of Ottawa. Unpublished data.
10. NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program CIMP 174 *“Using the past to inform the future: A paleological perspective of the impacts of drought and fire”* by Michael Pisaric, Brock University (2018).
11. NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program CIMP 177 *“The influence of forest fires on metal deposition to lakes and peatlands in the North Slave Region”* by John Ch  telat, Environment and Climate Change Canada (2018).
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