



Update on HHRA

- Fish and Blueberry Sampling
- Update on Draft HHRA Report

*Community Advisory Committee Update,
Tuesday February 24th, 2009*

Fish and Blueberry Sampling

- Concentrations of mercury in water samples collected during August 2008 by Stantec Consulting were unexpectedly elevated based upon historical water quality data from some of these lakes and other lakes in northern Manitoba.
- However, water quality data within this report are very limited because they were collected as supplemental data to the fish data collected for the Human Health Risk Assessment Study for the Flin Flon/Creighton area.
- It is not clear at present why the mercury concentrations were as high as observed in these summer samples.

Fish and Blueberry Sampling

- Potential sample contamination issues are a concern when measuring mercury in water because concentrations are usually at very low trace levels (micrograms per litre or approximately equivalent to parts per billion) and mercury occurs naturally in the atmosphere.
- In January 2009, the Province of Manitoba's Water Quality Management Section re-sampled some of the lakes and found mercury concentrations to be considerably lower.
- Ten replicate samples were sent to three different laboratories including the laboratory that analyzed the August 2008 samples.

Fish and Blueberry Sampling

- Mercury concentrations in all but one sample were less than 0.02 µg/L. The mercury concentration in one sample was 0.024 µg/L.
- All of the mercury concentrations from the January 2009 samples were below environmental or drinking water quality guidelines.
- Additional follow-up sampling for mercury in water is expected to occur during the summer of 2009 for comparison to the August 2008 and January 2009 results.

Draft HHRA Report

- Draft report currently being reviewed by TAC
- Independent Expert Review Panel (IERP) - Proposals to form panel are being reviewed by TAC
- IERP review process still on track to commence early April.