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## Citizens respond to call for water conservation

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – The City of Airdrie saw a steady decrease in water consumption over the past few days. Residents and businesses responded to the voluntary call to reduce water consumption by using 11.95 million litres of water on Tuesday, 11.91 on Wednesday and 11.8 on Thursday. Normal consumption for this time of year is 12 to 13 million litres per day.

“A big thanks to Airdrie residents and businesses for conserving water and reducing the draw on our reservoirs, said Lorne Stevens, Director, Community Infrastructure. “We need to continue that trend over the weekend as maintenance work is ongoing.”

Residents are still being asked to conserve water where they can to help minimize the draw-down on City reservoirs and are assured the water supply remains clean and safe to drink.

A few simple ways residents can conserve water:

- only run the dishwasher when full
- consider a shower instead of a bath
- put off any unnecessary laundry until after November 20 and ensure the water level in the washing machine is appropriate for the load size
- put a jug of water in the fridge for cold drinking water, rather than running the tap
- turn off the tap when brushing your teeth

“Waterline maintenance often takes a few days longer than planned due to the nature of the work,” says Glenn Archer, Team Leader of Water Services for the City of Airdrie. “We are in good shape, thanks to Airdrie residents reducing their water consumption.”

The City of Airdrie is ensuring all fire apparatus are filled prior to the shut off, holding off on flooding rinks, and putting off any City maintenance projects that require water. If an unexpected emergency such as a major fire or water main rupture within the City happened during this timeframe, more severe mandatory reductions may be necessary.

All of Airdrie’s water comes from the City of Calgary through two pipes operated and maintained by the City of Calgary. 70 per cent is delivered through a 900mm water main pipe and the remaining through a 350 mm main. The smaller pipe alone is not capable of meeting the City’s daily consumption, so the shortfall must be addressed using water from of our reservoirs.

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