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### **City of Toronto's Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Strategy -- Corrosion Control Plan**

In 2011, Toronto City Council approved the Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Strategy, a multi-pronged approach aimed at minimizing the occurrence of lead in drinking water. Key components include lead pipe replacement, a faucet filter program, lead testing for residents and a provincially mandated Corrosion Control Plan to mitigate the impact of lead in drinking water.

Prior to the mid-1950s, residential water service pipes were commonly made of lead, a soft metal that can affect health and has the most impact on a fetus or child under six years old. Lead can also be found in leaded-brass fixtures, such as faucets and valves, and in material that was used to solder pipes together before 1990. While passing through these pipes and fixtures, lead may enter tap water.

As part of the City of Toronto's multi-pronged lead mitigation approach, corrosion control is being implemented in 2014 with the addition of phosphate to enhance the City's water treatment process. At an initial dose of three milligrams per litre (mg/L), the phosphate will form a protective coating inside the City's entire network of pipes, reducing the potential for lead in drinking water. Toronto's Corrosion Control Plan is mandated and approved by the Ministry of the Environment under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Corrosion control has also been implemented in many other municipalities in North America.

The majority of users will not notice a change to their water. However, if you rely on municipal water for commercial heating or cooling, manufacturing or another use, I suggest you contact your heating/cooling supplier or process consultant to discuss whether slight adjustments may be needed.

The City of Toronto will start adding phosphate in the spring of 2014 at the R. L. Clark Water Treatment Plant in south Etobicoke, with the City's other three water treatment plants coming online mid-year. From the time of implementation, it will take up to two years for the phosphate to form a coating throughout the City's entire network of pipes. After this period, Toronto Water will monitor and adjust water treatment operations to ensure lead concentrations are controlled with a maintenance dose of 1 to 2 mg/L of phosphate.