

Water Meter Installation: Municipal Authority Over Water Meters

The Village of Valemount has the legal authority to determine who installs water meters on its utility system. This authority is separate from general plumbing licensing requirements.

Regulatory Framework

BC Plumbing Code: Sets technical standards for *how* plumbing work must be done but does not specify *who* can perform water meter installations.

Municipal Authority: Under the Community Charter and Local Government Act, municipalities have broad powers to manage their water utility systems, including:

- Requiring installation of meters
- Setting specifications for type, size, and location
- Determining who is permitted to install or service meters

Meter Ownership

Municipalities typically own water meters, even when installed on private property. This ownership grants them the right to control installation, removal, and servicing using their own staff or approved contractors.

Why This Matters

- Water meter installation is **municipal utility infrastructure work**, not private plumbing
- The Village of Valemount owns the meters and has authority to set installation standards
- Licensed plumbers handle private-side piping connections
- Municipal-approved contractors (like WMI-certified installers) handle meter installation

Conclusion

The use of WMI-certified water meter installers approved by the Village of Valemount is legally sound and within municipal authority. This practice recognizes the specialized nature of meter installation work and the municipality's jurisdiction over its utility infrastructure.



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