# Water Safety Discussion

A Discussion Forum is a space where you can share your thoughts as well as read the thoughts of others on a variety of topics. In ethics studies, equal access to safe water is defined as an important problem. Yet, in daily life many people don’t know the source of their water supply or what, if any, issues are associated with their water supply.

In this activity, you are asked to do some research to answer these two questions:

1. Where does your own water come from?
2. What is one important water issue that has been identified in your local community?

Explore two or three credible information sources to find out about the facts and value issues surrounding water in your community. We recommend that you explore federal, provincial, and municipal websites or publications, and other sources such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities or local newspapers. Make notes in response to the two questions posed in this activity as you read your selected information sources and then edit your notes to create a Discussion Forum posting (of about 100–150 words) in response to these questions describing your local community water supply source, access issue and any relevant impact(s) for community members. (Remember to save a copy of your posting as you may find it helpful to completing your first assignment.)

Take some time to read some of your classmates’ postings. What are some of the similarities and/or differences in the water issues in the different communities where your classmates live? (If you are the first to post, please be patient and check in to the Discussion Forum page again in a week or two. In this continuous enrolment course, student timelines are even more individual than is common in online group communication forums.)

Sample Student Discussion Forum Contribution

Subject Line: Water Supply and Issues in Kamloops, BC

My name is Donna and I live in Kamloops. Here, we are lucky to have a plentiful supply of safe, clean drinking water from nearby creeks in the South Thompson River watershed. The city has also invested in developing a state-of-the-art water treatment plant. One big issue here is that water provision is expensive, partly due to the high quality water treatment, but also because of the Kamloops topography and climate. Kamloops is a hilly town and the water has to be pumped up to an elevation of 1500 meters to serve everyone. Also, Kamloops is the hottest town in Canada in the summer, and uses about 4 times the average Canadian water consumption in the summer for lawn watering and swimming pool maintenance. The City is in process of implementing a user-pay water metering program.