



A Newsletter for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators!

THE WATERDRUM

November 2016

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22nd AGM , Training Conference & Tradeshow

2017

22nd AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow

**Delta Hotel
Sault Ste. Marie
February 13-17, 2017**



The AWWAO Board would like to cordially invite you to attend the 22nd AGM & Training Conference held in Sault Ste. Marie, February 13-17, 2017.

Our conferences promote the development and delivery of certified training programs for First Nation Operators and others involved in the water and wastewater industry.

Besides our training events, you will have access to our 2nd Annual Tradeshow and have the opportunity to discover new developments with water and wastewater solutions and network with professionals.



Sponsored by:



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et du Nord Canada





The meaning of the AWWAO logo as described by the artist:

- Tree—represents Mother Earth*
- Sun—brings Life to our Environment*
- Eagle—watches over the Environment*
- Sky—ensures the Cycle of Water*

ABOUT US

The Aboriginal Water & Wastewater Association of Ontario is an information source for water environment and Operator training and certification issues and technology. AWWAO's members include professionals from Ontario First Nations, Environmental Health Officers, Tribal Councils, Municipal Suppliers and some Government Agencies.

AWWAO is dedicated to the transfer of information and concepts regarding all areas of the water environment. As members of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO), we provide an invaluable network for those involved in water and wastewater industry. AWWAO, through a partnering agreement with Keewaytinook Okimakanak and Health Canada co-operates and liaises with the above noted associations, and all provincial and federal government agencies. AWWAO has a volunteer seat on many of the various association's committees.

AWWAO offers its members the opportunity to:

- ◆ Be updated and informed about issues that affect the water environment.
- ◆ Interact with persons in various fields of water expertise.
- ◆ Promote concerns of the membership through a collective voice.
- ◆ Exchange information and ideas to other members, the public and Chiefs and Council.

To date, the AWWAO consistently rank the training and certification of Plant Operators as its top priority. The attainment of Certification is widely recognized as essential to performing a good job, at a high level, in the water and wastewater treatment plant operations, and an indicator of a responsible and contributing community member.

MEMBERSHIP

\$100.00 Membership Fee for First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators per operator. This Membership entitles the Operator(s) to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletin, Annual Report and the Annual General Assembly and Training Conference cost reimbursement, if applicable.

\$200.00 Membership Fee for Non-Operator, Public Works Management, Administration and Management of a First Nation or Non-First Nation. This Membership entitles the Member to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletins, Annual Report and invitation to the Annual General Assembly and Training Conference.

Please Print

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

First Nation/Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

VISION

Our Vision is to be the Association that best understands and satisfies the training, education, certification and licensing needs of Operators of Ontario First Nations. Our dedication to supporting Operators touches not only health, but safety, spirit and empowerment ... most of all knowledge.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To act as a voice and forum for First Nation Plant Operators in Ontario, publish a newsletter, promote communications and networking among Plant Operators and other persons interested in AWWAO's objectives;
- ◆ Promote the importance of a safe and potable water supply and the highest standard of wastewater operations;
- ◆ Promote the development and delivery of continuing education and training programs for Plant Operators and others involved in water and wastewater treatment;
- ◆ Promote the importance of technical training in maintaining and upgrading the Operator's knowledge of proper water and wastewater operation and maintenance requirements;
- ◆ Promote the importance of involving qualified Operator's in the design, construction or upgrading of water and wastewater treatment plants;
- ◆ Promote the importance of proper training, certification and licensing of Operators;
- ◆ Promote the importance of enhanced lab testing of potable water and monitoring of wastewater effluents; and
- ◆ Promote the importance of establishing an effective Operations & Maintenance Management Plan to ensure proper care is performed for the assets.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a member oriented, non-profit Association, providing province-wide and year-round high-quality services and an annual forum for the First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators, allowing for networking opportunities at the same time. We are committed to providing high quality information on the water and wastewater industry through the quarterly newsletter. We are dedicated to promoting, preserving and protecting the water, natural resources and environment through the education, training and networking of the Ontario First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators.

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario's newsletter is published quarterly by the AWWAO at 41C Duke Street, Box 340, Dryden, Ontario P8N 2Z1
Tel: (807) 735-1381 ext. 1660
E-mail: info@awwao.org

Advertising opportunities and/or submission or request of information, please contact the Association Coordinator.



First Nations Water Initiative Agreement Signed



Signing of MOU on Water Agreement for First Nations



Keewaytinook Okimakanak and the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario sign agreement to work together on First Nations water initiatives.



Dryden, ON – The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO) and Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) have entered into a formal partnership through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to address First Nations water and wastewater issues across Ontario.

A signing ceremony for the MOU was held at the Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence on October 12, 2016, and witnessed by Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett.

“AWWAO represents the largest group of certified First Nations water and wastewater operators in Ontario and has been a strong voice for Indigenous water operators for over thirty years,” said AWWAO Vice Chairperson Wes Morriveau. “We are pleased to build on our experience and collaborate with KO on the development of sustainable water management systems.”

“We look forward to working with AWWAO and First Nations across this province to advance community-based water and wastewater initiatives such as the Safe Water Project,” said KO Chief Executive Director



Continued

Geordi Kakepetum. “AWWAO has significant experience in helping to train Indigenous water operators, which is one of the foundations of the Safe Water Project.”

Under the MOU, AWWAO will provide all operational personnel for KO’s drinking water initiatives, with KO providing administrative, technical and supervisory capacity to prospective projects.

Media inquiries:

Isabella Tatar (Media Relations, Keewaytinook Okimakanak)
(647) 539-9767

About Keewaytinook Okimakanak

Keewaytinook Okimakanak is a non-political Chiefs Council serving six First Nations in northwestern Ontario. The Council advises and assists its member First Nations and provides services (including the Safe Water Project) in areas such as health, education, economic development, and public works.

More information: www.kochiefs.ca

About the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Indigenous water and wastewater operators. The Association coordinates training events and advocates on behalf of its members.

More information: www.awwao.org

About the Safe Water Project

A First Nations initiative envisioned by the Chiefs of Keewaytinook Okimakanak, the Safe Water Project provides focused training and certification to local water operators, operational support for local operators as they pursue certification, and real-time water monitoring technology to communities that face challenges accessing safe drinking water.

More information: www.safe-water-project.ca



Continued



Chief Executive Director Geordi Kakepetum & Vice chairperson Wes Morrisseau



Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett & Wes Morrisseau



Geordi Kakepetum, Carolyn Bennett & Wes Morrisseau



Visit to Whitefish River First Nation

During the summer, I was able to take a trip to the beautiful Manitoulin Island area to deliver the trophy to the southern winner of the water taste challenge that took place at the AWWAO AGM in Sudbury.

I had the pleasure of touring the water treatment facility at Whitefish River First Nation, also known as Birch Island and presented the trophy to Gerald McGregor, one of the plant operators.

The plant has a great design and layout. I was quite impressed with the overall look of the plant, it was well maintained.

I congratulated Gerald again on water taste challenge and presented him with his trophy. Keep up the great work there Gerald!

Written by Jason Fox



First Nations Water Crisis Summit & Symposium



On October 17-19, 2016 Ian Fortin, Wes Morriseau, Steve Laronde, Gary Wheatley and Sara Campbell, attended the First Nations Water Crisis Summit & Symposium In Niagara Falls, Ontario. AWWAO set up a tradeshow booth. We provided information regarding our organization and upcoming conferences. As a draw prize, AWWAO gave away 3-\$1000.00 Training Vouchers. We are pleased to announce that the winners of our training vouchers were Simon Moonias, Doug Bisallion and Rawleigh Grosbeck.

The Water Symposium provided an opportunity to network and build awareness and understanding to the current day-to-day issues facing water and wastewater management and allow for the exchange of knowledge and expertise to build a stronger support system within First Nation Communities.



AFN National Housing and Infrastructure Forum 2016 Tradeshow



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) had a National Housing and Infrastructure Forum and Tradeshow. The tradeshow was held in Winnipeg, MB November 1-3, 2016 with the theme, "Moving Forward on First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Reform".

The tradeshow provided an excellent opportunity to facilitate networking among First Nation leadership, band administrators, public works and housing managers, technicians, organization, government departments, and businesses from across Canada. Wes Morriseau, Steve Laronde and Sara Campbell met with Chief Isadore Day, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett, Irving LeBlanc and Geordi Kakepetum .



Training Courses at 22nd AGM & Training Conference



AWWAO is once again pleased to invite you to attend the 22nd Annual General Meeting and Training Conference which will be held in Sault Ste. Marie February 13-17, 2017. As evolution in the field of water and wastewater in First Nations continues, the AWWAO offers training by the industry's leading water experts.



Entry Level Course

This course provides new operators with a basic understanding of water characteristics and pathogens, treatment and distribution processes, and the regulations that govern water quality. This course is intended to complement the on-the-job training that Operators in Training (OITs) receive from their employers.

The course consists of two components. The first involves approximately 40 hours of self-study. The self-study manual will be mailed to the registrant within five (5) business days of registration. Once the first portion is completed, the participant must pass a self-administered exam in order to proceed to the classroom portion of the course.

The classroom session is one week in duration and consists of a final exam that covers subject areas addressed both in the self-study and classroom portions of the course.

This is a mandatory course required by all new operators. It must be completed within 16 months from the date an OIT certificate in drinking water treatment and/or distribution was issued.

OIT (2.6 CEUs)

Operator-in-Training (OIT) certificates and licences are for those who wish to work in one or more of the following areas, Water Treatment, Water Distribution or Distribution and Supply, Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collection.

An individual holding an OIT certificate or licence is considered an operator and can obtain valid operational experience to upgrade to a class 1.

EXAM PREP COURSE (2.6 CEUs)

To provide operators of water treatment and water distribution systems with the knowledge required to successfully operate and maintain community facilities, and successfully challenge provincial certification exams.



Training Courses at 22nd AGM & Training Conference

Water sources, characteristics and the hydrologic cycle ,Water treatment processes ,Water distribution systems ,Support systems ,Mathematics for water treatment and distribution system operators ,Provincial drinking water regulations ,Exam writing protocol and practice exams.

Maintenancefest (0.6 CEUs), Groundwater, Wells & Well Pumps(07 CEUs) & Practical Training for Small Water System Owner & Operators (0.7 CEUs)

Maintenancefest-With director-approved modules covering treatment, distribution and small systems, this event offers a wide variety of options for operators to roll up their sleeves, don their hard hats and participate in activity-based training led by industry's subject matter experts.

Groundwater, Wells and Well Pumps

This course will provide participants with a general understanding of the occurrence and nature of groundwater; how wells are designed and constructed; groundwater quality and wellhead protection; and pumps and well maintenance.

Practical Training for Small Water System Owner & Operators

This course provides owners and operators with a realistic and practical approach to deal with issues related to source, treatment and operation of small drinking water systems. Participants will gain an understanding of basic maintenance procedures for treatment equipment commonly used in small systems, and will be given an opportunity to exchange ideas with other small systems owners and operators.



To register call or email Sara Campbell at
(807) 735-1381 ext. 1660 or info@awwao.org.
Or see the registration form on the AWWAO
website, www.awwao.org.

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Safe Water Project Expanded

CJ Staff | Posted: Thursday, October 13, 2016 6:00 am

An unique initiative that helps provides safe drinking water for indigenous communities in Northern Ontario is expanding.

The Keewaytinook Okimakanak's Safe Water Project will expand to an additional 14 First Nations this year thanks to a more than \$4 million investment by the federal government.



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and Kenora MP Bob Nault announced the funding during a tour of the Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence in Dryden on Wednesday.

“We are delighted the government is continuing its support of our efforts to improve First Nations’ access to safe, clean drinking water,” said Keewaytinook Okimakanak CEO Geordi Kakepetum. “With this new funding, we will be able to build on our success, and assist more communities looking for proven solutions to their drinking water challenges.”

Developed by the Chiefs of Keewaytinook Okimakanak, the Safe Water Project has already ended long-standing boil water advisories in three First Nations communities, and is on track to lift an advisory that has been in place in one community for over 15 years. The funding will allow the project to be implemented in an additional 14 First Nations represented by the Shibogama First Nations Council, the Windigo First Nations Council and the Independent First Nations Alliance. Many of their communities are facing challenges accessing safe drinking water.

The Safe Water Project strengthens the capacity of communities to manage their drinking water systems by providing them with: focused training and certification for local water operators; operational support to local operators while they pursue certification; and, proven technology that monitors water on a continuous basis.

The Safe Water Project was launched in May 2015 and builds on Keewaytinook Okimakanak's years of experience delivering water operator training and certification to First Nations and municipalities.

Officials with the three tribal councils say they look forward to training community members as water operators and ending boil water advisories in their communities.

Keewaytinook Okimakanak is a non-political chiefs council serving six First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.

The council advises and assists its members and provides services in areas such as health, education, economic development, and public works.



Exam Prep Conference 2017



Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario is pleased to announce we will be having a one week Exam Prep Conference , the week of March 6-10, 2017, held at OWOTC, 2200 Brampton Street, Hamilton, Ontario. Course tuition, exam fees, accommodations, breakfasts, luncheons and shuttles services will be covered. You will have the option to pick from:



- WD-11-CT Exam Prep OIT Water Distribution**
- WD-54-CT Exam Prep Water Distribution Level 1 & 2**
- WD-55-CT Exam Prep Water Distribution Level 3 & 4**

Upon successful completion of the attendance and testing requirements, each participant will be issued a certificate in accordance with regulatory requirements.

WWOTC provide high quality water and wastewater training to an average of 3000 operators per year over about 400 training events across Canada. They are committed to operational skills development and keeping current with emerging issues.

Further details to follow.

Registration will be available shortly!!



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Health Canada
www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Sponsors of AWWAO

Nia:wen Thank you Miigwech



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca



2017 Membership Renewal



Reminder!

Please **renew** your membership form. Memberships are \$100.00 for First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators per operator. This Membership entitles the Operator(s) to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletin, a laminated membership card, access to the AWWAO website and resources, Annual Report and the AGM and Training Conference cost reimbursement, if applicable.

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In today's challenging times, you need to stay informed and on top of your game. The Association provides you with information and can connect you with the people and programs that will help you achieve your career objectives!!

Forms can be found on the AWWAO website www.awwao.org or contact Sara Campbell at (807) 735-1381 ext. 1660 or email info@awwao.org.



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

