



A Newsletter for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators!

THE WATERDRUM

January 2022

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27th AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow

AWWAO would like to cordially invite you to attend the 27th AGM & Training Conference held at the Delta Hotels Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront, Sault Ste. Marie, ON March 7-10, 2022.

Our event features CEUs courses, keynote speakers, the 6th Annual Tradeshow, awards for Operator of the Year, Instructor of the Year, the Water Cup Challenge and an opportunity for professional development and networking opportunities.

AWWAO is continuing to monitor authorities recommendations and have incorporated a COVID 19 Protocol to enhance safety for our participants and staff at our training sessions. This protocol includes pre-screening for our venues, participants and staff, social distancing and disinfections measures. Participants will be required to show proof of fully vaccinated status (14 days prior to the conference) and complete a covid self screen form daily and comply to all safety rules.

Deadline to register is February 4, 2022.



Its hard to believe that 2021 is slowly coming to an end, instead of reflection on the past year. AWWAO would like to look ahead to 2022, a new year, a new start! Wishing you and your family health and happiness in the New Year!!

2022

Sponsored by: Indigenous Services Canada and First Nations Inuit Health Branch



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

\$200.00 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.

\$400.00 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.

Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario's newsletter is published quarterly by the AWWAO at Box 20001, RPO, Riverview Postal Outlet
 Dryden, ON P8N 0A1
 Tel: (807) 216-8085
 E-mail: info@awwao.org

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

27th AGM-Register now!

- ◆ AWWAO is pleased to announce the 27th AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow which will be held at the Delta Hotel, Sault Ste Marie March 7-10, 2022. AWWAO will be covering meals, accommodations and training costs during the conference. Earn CEUs as you increase your skills. Deadline to register is February 4, 2022. You must be an AWWAO member to attend this conference.
- ◆ AWWAO would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past 12 months. We value all contributions to AWWAO and memberships make up the lifeblood of our organization. Your involvement is extremely important to us and very much appreciated. That said, we know these are busy times but we wanted to remind you that your membership with AWWO will expire on December 31, 2021. Please note, there is a new form called AWWAO code of conduct that we will require all operators to sign. If you're still deciding whether or not to renew, or just haven't gotten around to it yet, please let us remind you of what you'll be missing if you do not renew your membership with AWWAO:
- ◆ -\$200 Regular Member/Licensed Operator Membership Fee-This Membership entitles the Operator to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletins, Annual Report, invitation to the AGM and Training Conference and Exam Prep Conferences.
- ◆ -\$400 Associate Membership Fee-This Membership entitles the Operator to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletins, Annual Report and invitation to the AGM and Training Conference.
- ◆ We truly hope that you'll take this time to renew your membership and remain a part of our organization. Please note we do not accept credit cards. Cheques are to be made payable to AWWAO.
- ◆ AWWAO recognizes that there are First Nation Operators in Ontario who go above and beyond doing a good job; they provide an example for others of the many facets of being an Operator, particularly in supporting the other activities of other Operators. They make the extra effort to support their fellow Operators, and teach others what they have learned through many years of working in the field. Often, they encourage others to become more involved including training opportunities. If you know of a First Nation Operator who is an AWWAO Member that fits this bill, please nominate him/her. Please note the operator must be in attendance at the 27th AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow in Sault Ste Marie to qualify. The winner will be announced on March 9, 2022.
- ◆ Please nominate an instructor that you feel has done a truly exceptional job in teaching.
- ◆ At the 2022 Annual General Meeting elections will take place. It is important that you have the opportunity to communicate your views to us and you are encouraged to participate in the meeting by voting and registering.
- ◆ If you have **not** received an email confirmation within 2 business day for your registration, please contact me at 807-216-8085.



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation water operator wins national leadership award

Jonathan Riberdy praised by chief for going 'above and beyond'



Renée Lilley · CBC News · Posted: Dec 11, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: December 11



Jonathan Riberdy is the 2021 winner of the National First Nations Water Leadership Award given by Indigenous Services Canada. (Submitted by Jonathan Riberdy)

A water operator in an Ontario First Nation is being nationally recognized for his hard work and dedication to his community.

Jonathan Riberdy has been awarded the 2021 National First Nations Water Leadership Award for his work to make safe and clean drinking water a reality for Zhiibaahaasing First Nation in Ontario. The water leadership award was created in 2018 by Indigenous Services Canada.

Originally from Temagami First Nation, Riberdy, who is Algonquin, has lived and worked in Zhiibaahaasing for about 12 years. The community has been under a boil water advisory since 1992 and is currently using a temporary water plant in a sea can after damage to its water plant last year.

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Riberdy is nearly finished his training as the water plant supervisor after being asked by the community to take the job six years ago. Along with his training as a water operator, Riberdy also has training to drive heavy machinery and has a transportation licence. He is also the project manager for Swim Drink Fish Canada, and a director for the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario.

He said he is honoured for the recognition of his work.

"I'm really humbled, to be honest," said Riberdy.

"I follow the seven grandfather teachings. I have a lot of humility. I am very excited, and very happy that someone recognized the work that I'm doing."

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation has been granted \$2.9 million from the Green Infrastructure stream, a part of the joint federal and provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to help cost-share with the government for a new system and to lift the boil water advisory, Riberdy said.

"That's something we're fighting to get off of right now, so that we can get a proper water treatment plant and distribution system. We're moving in the right direction with ISC right now," he said.

"I have high hopes that we're going to get the money that we deserve, and build the system that we need. If we work as a team, we'll be good."

Praise from the community

Members of Riberdy's community say their water is in good hands.

"We're super proud of him," said band manager Bobbi-Sue Kells-Riberdy.

"We're glad that he's our water operator, because he's taken his own time to ensure we do have clean drinking water. He's put in countless hours of overtime that he's never been compensated for."

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation chief Chief Irene Kells said Riberdy is a hard worker.

"I work closely with him, and I've seen where he's gone above and beyond," she said.

Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hadju spoke with Riberdy last week to deliver the news of the award. In a news release, she said "The expertise and commitment of water operators like Mr. Riberdy are vital in achieving our shared goal — ensuring that all First Nations communities have access to clean drinking water and maintaining strong water and wastewater infrastructure."

As part of the award, Riberdy will have a bursary in his name for \$10,000 for First Nations individuals who are pursuing or continuing their career in the water and wastewater industry.



Jonathan Riberdy of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation announced as recipient of the 2021 National First Nations Water Leadership Award

anishinabeknews.ca/2021/12/09/jonathan-riberdy-of-zhiibaahaasing-first-nation-announced-as-recipient-of-the-2021-national-first-nations-water-leadership-award/

– In 2018, the National First Nations Water Leadership Award was established to recognize First Nations individuals or organizations that have demonstrated leadership and outstanding dedication to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water in First Nations communities.

Today, Indigenous Services Canada is pleased to announce that Jonathan Riberdy of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is the recipient of the 2021 National First Nations Water Leadership Award. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services, had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Riberdy last week and deliver the exciting news that he was this year's award winner.

Mr. Riberdy is a water operator whose commitment and passion are an inspiration to his community. He has worked alongside his Chief and Council to help bring long-term solutions that provide safe and clean drinking water to his community, and he strives to share his knowledge with others.

For many years, Jonathan has worked tirelessly to uphold high drinking water standards in his community and to train young Indigenous water operators across Ontario. Jonathan currently serves as his community's water supervisor, a project manager for Swim Drink Fish Canada, and a director for the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario.

Additionally, \$10,000 in bursaries are made available each year in the winner's name to First Nations individuals who are pursuing or furthering their career in the water and wastewater industry. Applications are open, and those interested in pursuing professional development in the industry are highly encouraged to apply. The Circuit Rider Trainer Professional Association (CRTPA) is responsible for administering the bursaries and more information is available on the CRTPA website, including an application form for the bursaries.

Congratulations Mr. Riberdy!

"My favourite part of my day-to-day work within Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is ensuring we have clean drinking water and showing trainees and community members the processes of the water plant. Teaching my knowledge to other operators is the most rewarding, knowing that I can share my knowledge. Four times a year, our Elders and women take the lead in water ceremonies for our clean drinking water. We take this time to say Miigwech (thank you) to the water for letting us have clean, drinkable, fishable and swimmable water. Having leadership at these ceremonies shows the commitment towards water and gives them an understanding of the water processes."

Jonathan Riberdy, water operator, Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
Recipient of the 2021 National First Nations Water Leader



Jonathan Riberdy of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is the recipient of the 2021 National First Nations Water Leadership Award.

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“Congratulations Jonathan Riberdy of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation for being named the 2021 recipient of the National First Nations Water Leadership Award! Thank you for your work and dedication to your community. The expertise and commitment of water operators like Mr. Riberdy are vital in achieving our shared goal—ensuring that all First Nations communities have access to clean drinking water and maintaining strong water and wastewater infrastructure. Thank you, Jonathan and congratulations!”

The Honourable Patty Hajdu Minister of Indigenous Services

Quick facts

- The recipient will receive a trophy and a piece of Indigenous artwork, and all nominees receive a pin designed by an Indigenous company.
- The recipient is also honoured through the creation of bursaries in their name to support water operators in their professional development.
- Nominees are First Nations individuals, community members or leaders, or First Nations organizations or communities.
- Nominations are reviewed by an advisory committee formed of First Nations partners.
- The nomination period for the National First Nations Water Leadership Award 2022 will be January 3, 2022, to February 21, 2022. The nomination process is outlined on [National First Nations Water Leadership Award](#) web page.
- Last year’s recipient of the National First Nations Water Leadership Award was Eric Sioui, a Circuit Rider Training Program Coordinator from Wendake, Quebec, recognized for his leadership and for sharing his expertise with other First Nations water operators across Quebec through the Circuit Rider Training Program.
- The recipient in 2019 was Deon Hassler, a First Nations military veteran and former water operator in his home community of Carry the Kettle, Saskatchewan.
- The recipient of the inaugural National First Nations Water Leadership Award in 2018 was Lorraine Crane, Chief of Slate Falls First Nation in Ontario, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and dedication to the advancement of clean drinking water in her community.



National First Nations Water Leadership Award

About the award

There are people who, by their everyday actions, are able to guide, influence and inspire. We call them leaders.

The National First Nations Water Leadership Award recognizes First Nations individuals or organizations that have demonstrated leadership and outstanding dedication to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water in First Nations communities, today and for future generations.

In March 2018, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) created the National First Nations Water Leadership Award, which is open annually to nominations for eligible candidates. An advisory committee of First Nations partners reviews the nominations and provides recommendations to the Minister of Indigenous Services.

Who is eligible

Eligible candidates are:

- First Nations individuals, community members or leaders
- First Nations organizations
- First Nations communities

Eligible candidates must have demonstrated leadership and made outstanding contributions to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water in First Nations communities by:

- creating, promoting or advancing Indigenous community-based outreach or programs in support of clean and safe drinking water
- making concerted efforts and providing leadership during community drinking water emergencies or water infrastructure challenges (such as ending long-term drinking water advisories)
- developing and advancing innovative practices in relation to drinking water
- showing dedication, work and achievements that support clean and safe drinking water, including water system operation, relationship building, planning and prevention
- showing extraordinary involvement in First Nations water-related issues

2021 winner

Jonathan Riberdy

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation, Ontario

Nominator: Madjid Mohseni, Professor, University of British Columbia and Scientific Director, RESEAU Centre for Mobilizing Innovation

"My favourite part of my day-to-day work within Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is ensuring we have clean drinking water. Showing trainees and our community members the processes of the water plant. Teaching my knowledge to other operators is the most rewarding, knowing that I can share my knowledge. Four times a year in Zhiibaahaasing, we host a water ceremony with our Elders and women take the lead in these ceremonies for our clean drinking water. We take this time to say *Miigwech* (thank you) to the water for letting us have clean drinkable, fishable and swimmable water. Having leadership at these ceremonies shows the commitment towards water and gives them an understanding of the water processes. I would like the leadership to respect operators and respect the knowledge we hold and the pride we take in ensuring our water is safe. I would also like leadership to promote water and wastewater jobs in their communities."

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What is the biggest need regarding safe drinking water in your community and how do you feel that your work and engagement have helped to address that need?

First and foremost, I would like to say I am honoured to be nominated for this award and thank you to the people that took the time to nominate me.

The biggest need is having safe drinking water in Zhiibaahaasing First Nation. Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is located on the largest freshwater island in the world and we have been on a long-term boil advisory for over 30 years. Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is currently without a water treatment plant. In the summer of 2019, Zhiibaahaasing Water Treatment Plant was in danger due to high water levels approaching the building. In the spring of 2020, the building was deemed unsafe as the integrity of the building was compromised due to water levels and high winds. The water plant was decommissioned. A state of emergency was declared by Chief and Council and is currently still in effect.

In the summer of 2019, the winds and high-water levels raised concerns for the integrity of the building. I watched and observed the water levels on a daily basis and I had expressed my concerns that the water levels were nearing the building. On the evening of June 29, 2019, the winds were high, so I went to check the plant around 7 p.m. and found the water had washed under the water treatment plant and started to remove the rock supporting the foundation. The holding tanks that hold 13,000 gallons of water sat on the corner where the water had washed away the foundation. The fear was the weight of the water could damage the whole water treatment plant. At this point, leadership was notified that emergency support was required. That evening, E. Corbiere & Sons were called in for emergency support and were on site within 1 hour of the call out. That weekend and in the following weeks, loads of rock and armoured stone were delivered to protect the water treatment plant from future damage from the rising waters. A new break wall and raising of the ground level was completed during the summer and into the winter months.

During the spring of 2020, the concern was there again from high water levels and wind. The wind was so powerful that Chief and Council declared the water treatment plant, that was built in 2013, structurally unsafe.

Once Chief and Council declared the State of Emergency, the community was without water. No drinking water, no water in the cisterns and no deliveries. We were able to quickly reach out to MChiigeeng First Nation for support. We hired Bright Water Services out of Kitchener to deliver water from MChiigeeng First Nation 3 times a week and 2 to 3 loads a day. We also had to provide clean drinking water to each home. Culligan Water was obtained to bring drinking water once a month to the community. Each home was equipped with a water cooler to support the jugs that they received. Currently, Culligan is still providing water delivery.

During this time, I worked alongside my Chief and Council, Band Manager, ISC, First Nations Engineering Services Ltd. and BI Pure Water to get a temporary water treatment plant in Zhiibaahaasing First Nation. The plan was to have a sea-can built as a portable package plant to ensure Zhiibaahaasing had water in the community. A distribution line was placed in the ground to connect the package plant to the low lift station that pulls water from Lake Huron. The package plant arrived September 3, 2020.

Training for the package plant started in December 2020. Training was for 2 weeks with the operator from BI Pure Water. Once the training was finished, the first load of water was delivered on December 25, 2020. With this new package plant, it was imperative to have 2 operators on site while water was delivered via truck to each cistern, to monitor the PLC and ensure there were no alarms during hauling.



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Now, Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is waiting on a new water treatment plant and distribution system. This new system will get Zhiibaahaasing First Nation off the long-term boil water advisory and allow for removal of all the cisterns from each home and community building.

What is your favourite part of your day-to-day work within your community?

My favourite part of my day-to-day work within Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is ensuring we have clean drinking water and showing trainees and community members the processes of the water plant. Teaching my knowledge to other operators is the most rewarding, knowing I can share my knowledge. Troubleshooting and cleaning the instruments are some of the ways I teach my trainees, along with completing in-house water samples. Hands-on learning for myself and other trainees is the best way to learn water treatment.

What message would you like to share with others as a way to encourage engagement on safe drinking water and water leadership within their community?

Four times a year in Zhiibaahaasing, we host a water ceremony with our elders and women take the lead in these ceremonies for our clean drinking water. We host these 4 times a year to ensure our community takes this time together to honour the water and discuss issues we have with water in our community. We take this time to say *Miigwech* (thank you) to the water for letting us have clean drinkable, fishable, and swimmable water. Having leadership at these ceremonies shows the commitment towards water and gives them an understanding of the water processes.

I would like the leadership to respect operators and respect the knowledge we hold and the pride we take in ensuring our water is safe. I would also like leadership to promote water and waste water jobs in their communities. I would like to see more female operators in this field as they protect and care for our waters. I would like to see 1 female operator to every male operator.



AWWAO would like to recognize and congratulate Jonathan Riberdy (AWWAO director) on winning the National First Nations Water Leadership Award!

AWWAO Certification Week

AWWAO held a one week certification and CEU session (November 15-19, 2021) in Sudbury for First Nation Operators culminating in the OWWCO Exam. There was a total of 17 operators in attendance. World Water Operator Training Company Inc. (WWOTC) provided the training for this week.

The courses and instructors for the certification week were: Ken Blewett (WDI&II) , Mike Lukuvich (WTI & II) and Dave Russell WWTI & II.

AWWAO Director, Jonathan Riberdy presented the gift cards to the instructors.



Ken Blewett and Jonathan Riberdy



Jonathan Riberdy and Mike Lukuvich



Dave Russell and Jonathan Riberdy



Classes



Classes



Recently lifted long-term drinking water advisories

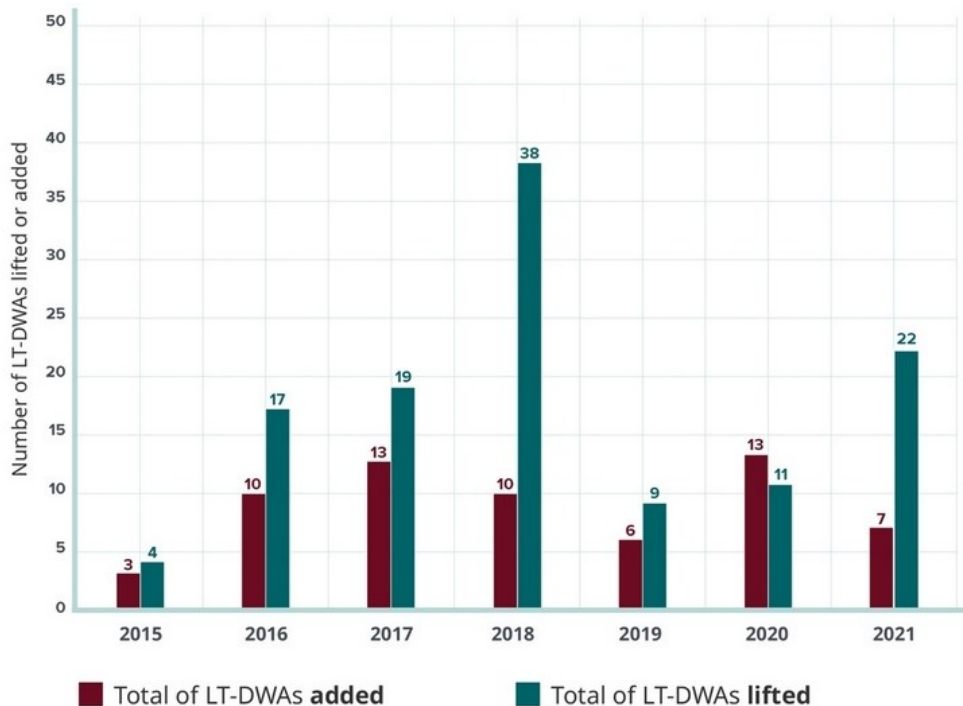
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations as of December 6, 2021
Shoal Lake No. 40 as of October 21, 2021
Mishkeegogamang First Nation as of October 15, 2021.

Updated December 9, 2021



120
long-term drinking
water advisories
lifted since
November 2015

42 long-term drinking
water advisories
in effect in
30 communities



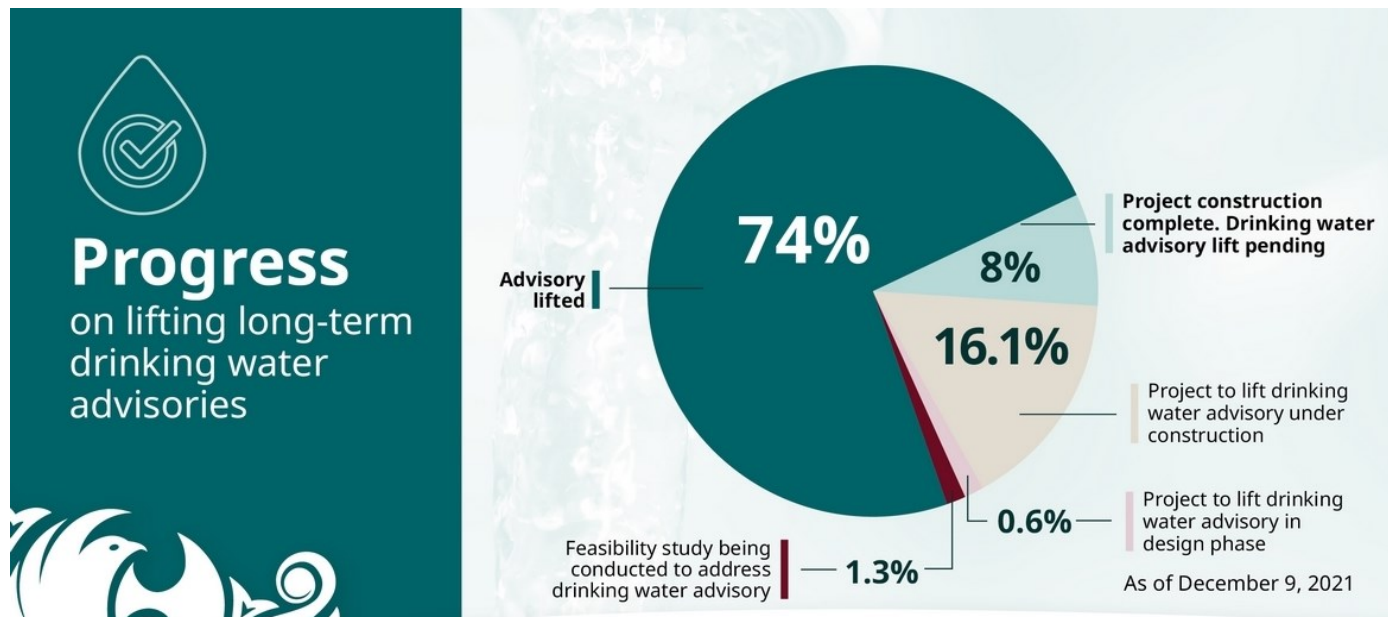
Description of Long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves as of December 9, 2021
120 long-term drinking water advisories lifted since November 2015.

42 long-term drinking water advisories in effect in 30 communities.

- In 2015 there were 3 long-term drinking water advisories added and 4 lifted.
- In 2016 there were 10 long-term drinking water advisories added and 17 lifted.
- In 2017 there were 13 long-term drinking water advisories added and 19 lifted.
- In 2018 there were 10 long-term drinking water advisories added and 38 lifted.
- In 2019 there were 6 long-term drinking water advisories added and 9 advisories lifted.
- In 2020 there were 13 long-term drinking water advisories added 11 advisories lifted.
- In 2021 there were 7 long-term drinking water advisories added 22 advisories lifted.

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Progress on lifting long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves



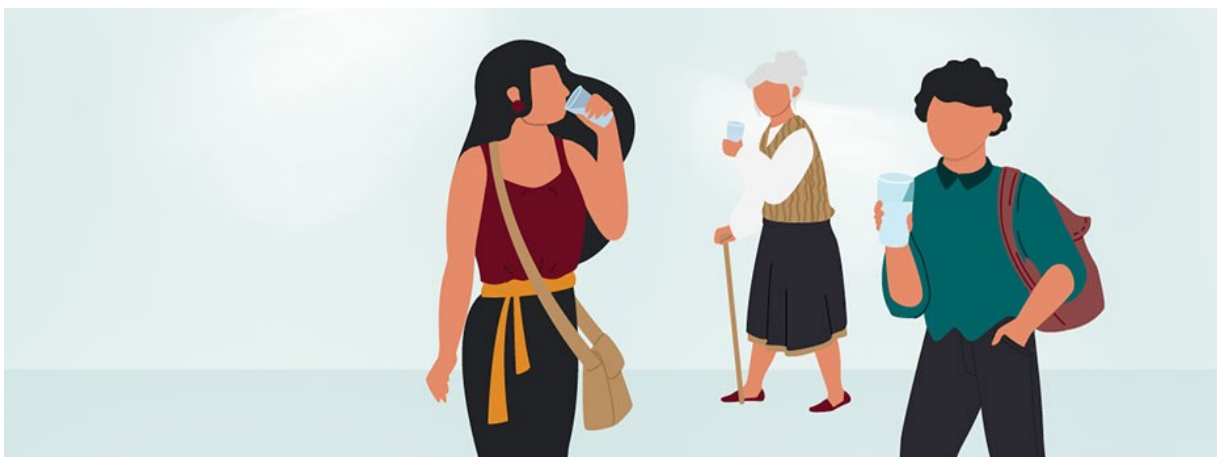
Indigenous Services Canada / Services aux Autochtones Canada



Description of progress on lifting long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves as of December 9, 2021

Progress on lifting long-term drinking water advisories

- 74% advisory lifted.
- 8% project construction complete. Drinking water advisory lift pending.
- 16.1% project to lift drinking water advisory under construction.
- 0.6% project to lift drinking water advisory in design phase.
- 1.3% feasibility study being conducted to address drinking water advisory.



Indigenous Services Canada receives the Parliamentary Budget Officer's report on clean water for First Nations

NEWS PROVIDED BY

Indigenous Services Canada

Dec 01, 2021, 17:19 ET

OTTAWA, ON, Dec. 1, 2021 /CNW/ - The Minister of Indigenous Services, Patty Hajdu, issued the following statement today:

"We welcome the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO)'s report and share the PBO's commitment to providing adequate funding for safe drinking water in First Nations communities.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) remains focused on working with First Nations to support them in resolving outstanding issues they face in accessing safe drinking water. Reconciliation requires taking action to support Indigenous Peoples on their path forward and addressing long-standing funding gaps.

In partnership with First Nations leadership and communities across the country, the Government of Canada has made significant investments in water-related infrastructure on reserves. Since Budget 2016, Canada has committed \$5.2 billion to support First Nations to bring safe drinking water to their communities.

The results of the PBO report are encouraging, showing that our investments to date have closed the capital funding gap identified in the 2017 report.

The report also identifies operations and maintenance as essential to sustainable access to a safe water supply in First Nations communities. We strongly agree with the PBO, and that is why we have increased support for operations and maintenance so that 100% of water and wastewater operations and maintenance costs will be covered—up from 80%—based on an updated funding formula that more accurately reflects current costs.

By 2025-26, we will have increased the annual funding provided to support the operations and maintenance of water and wastewater systems by almost four times since 2019-20.

While we are making progress, there is still more work to do. With support from ISC, First Nations have lifted 119 long-term drinking water advisories. However, 43 advisories remain in 31 communities. We are working with our partners to lift those advisories that are still in effect as quickly as possible. We have decreased the number of high- and medium-risk systems, but we need to continue our efforts to lower these risk ratings because we know there is no acceptable number of drinking water advisories beyond zero.

The government will continue to support First Nations in implementing sustainable solutions that best suit their communities' needs and supporting healthy, safe and prosperous communities.

Board of Directors

Ian Fortin - Chairperson
Wes Morriseau - Vice Chairperson
Steve Laronde - Treasurer
Jason Fox - Secretary
Phil Tangie - Director
Stacey Kicknosway-Director
Jonathan Riberdy-Director



Sara Campbell – Coordinator

“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

- **Mattie Stepanek**