

Water and Wastewater Program update

August 30, 2022



Propose:

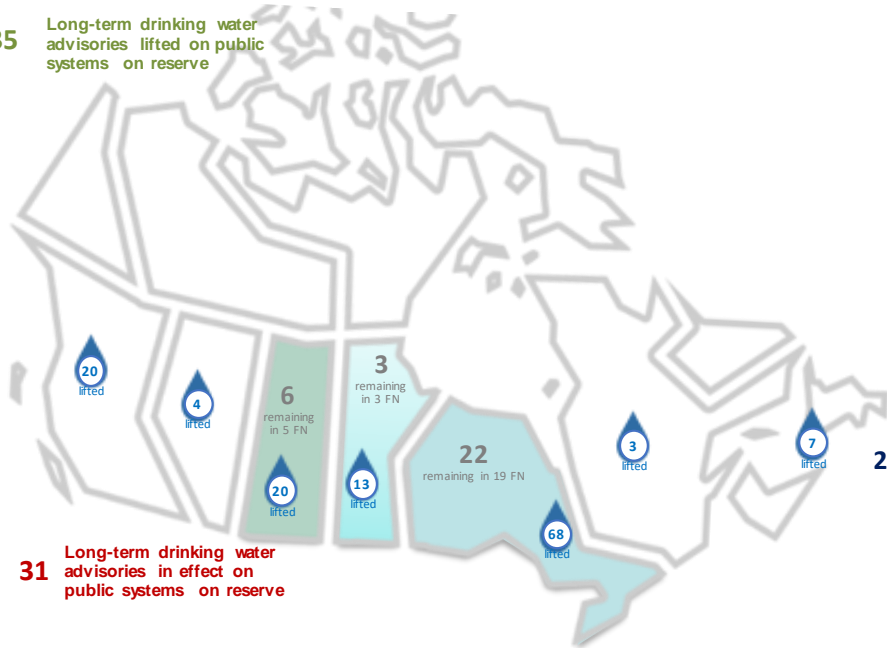
- to inform the Circuit Rider Trainers on national initiatives
- to provide an overview of current legislation activities
- to offer a snapshot on long-term and short-term drinking water advisories



Status of Long-term Drinking Water Advisories (LTDWAs)

August 8, 2022

135 Long-term drinking water advisories lifted on public systems on reserve



31 Long-term drinking water advisories in effect on public systems on reserve

105 LT DWAs in effect in November 2015 (including expanded scope)
+ 66 added
(new advisories that became long-term)
- 5 LT DWAs deactivated
(systems no longer in use)
- 135 LTDWAs lifted
= 31 LT DWAs remaining, in 27 First Nations communities

222 Short-term drinking water advisories lifted since November 2015

Status of Long-term drinking Water Advisories (LTDWAs)

- **135** Long term drinking water advisories have been lifted since 2015
- **12 LTDWAs** are expected to be lifted between September and December 2022, based on current estimated target lift dates
- **3 LTDWAs** are on track to be lifted after December 2022
- **42% of LTDWAs** are expected to be lifted by March 2023
- Projects to address these advisories are under construction or complete
- Considerations in meeting estimated timelines include:
 - COVID-19 related delays, including significant supply chain issues
 - Operations and maintenance considerations, where improved operations are required prior to the advisory being lifted.



Safe Drinking Water Legislation

- The 2013 *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, was repealed in June 2022 due to First Nations' concerns, and no regulations under the Act were passed.
- First Nation concerns with the 2013 Act included: lack of adequate, predictable and sustainable funding; non-recognition of Aboriginal water rights; potential infringements on Aboriginal and treaty rights; lack of proper protection of source water; and insufficient engagement.
- The Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Class Action Settlement Agreement, approved by the Courts in December 2021, commits Canada to making all reasonable efforts to develop and introduce new proposed First Nations water legislation, in consultation with First Nations, by December 31, 2022.

Safe Drinking Water Legislation continued

- Canada is working with First Nation partners to co-develop proposed legislation to replace the 2013 *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*.
- Interested First Nations are encouraged to contact us at proprenh2o-cleanfnh2o@sac-isc.gc.ca for more information on engagement.

Long-term Strategy for Water and Wastewater

- ISC continues to work with AFN on their previously completed engagements for the Long Term Water and Wastewater Strategy.
- The AFN has noted that there is a need to shift away from the Strategy to align with other initiatives such as replacement water legislation, closing the infrastructure gap by 2030 and pivoting towards a longer term approach for all infrastructure.
- Upcoming AFN led engagements will now target broader discussions including water legislation, long term infrastructure plans and closing the gap by 2030

Call for Proposals

111 total submissions

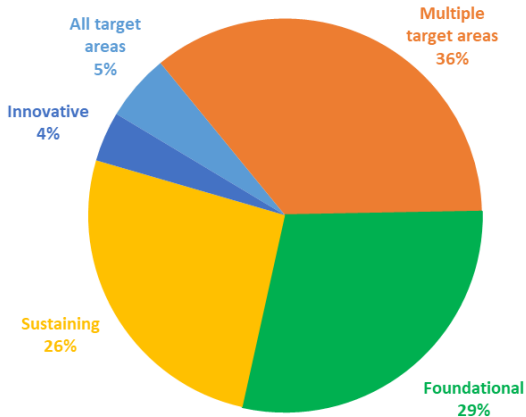
102 submitted by May 9

28 ineligible (infra, training, salaries)

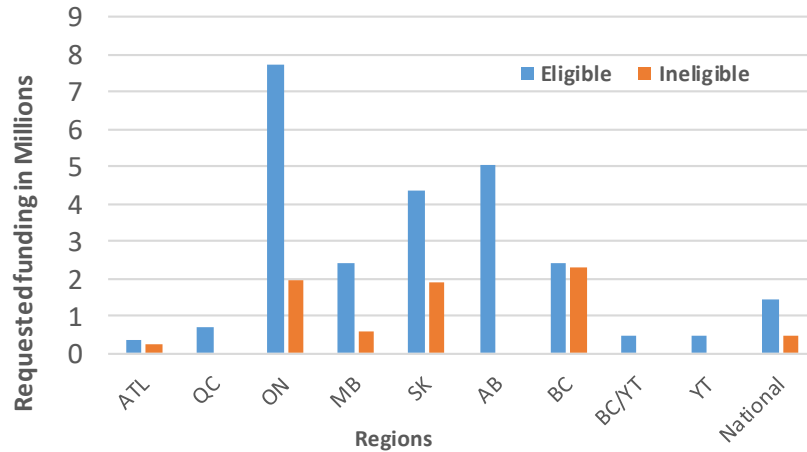
73 reviewed by committee

5 directly funded by SWM

Covered Target Areas of eligible proposals



Regional breakdown of eligible proposals



National First Nation Water Leadership Award

- We continue to recognize excellence in water operations. The winner of the 4th annual National First Nation Water Leadership Award was **Jonathan Riberdy**.
- The 2022 Call for Nominations took place in January for the 5th year of the award.
- The award serves to recognize hard work, determination, and leadership of First Nations in raising awareness on water issues and in supporting access to clean drinking water in their communities.
- By highlighting the leadership in First Nations on water issues, we hope that the winners can inspire others.



Winner

Jonathan Riberdy

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation (ON)

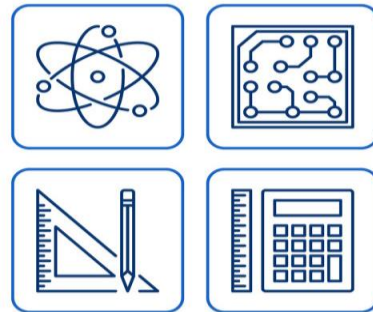
Circuit Rider Training Program and Circuit Rider Trainer Professional Association

- **Circuit Rider Training Program:** Qualified trainers rotate through a circuit of First Nation communities to advise and provide technical on-site support
- **Circuit Rider Training Professional Association (CRTPA):** represents circuit rider trainers and hosts an annual conference where operators gather to troubleshoot and share their experiences
 - Working towards a 5 year agreement for the CRTPA to provide stability in the organization

Technical Youth Career Outreach Program

- Technical Youth Career Outreach Program (TYCOP) has been developed and implemented by the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation.

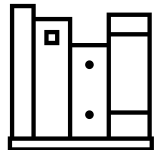
- The program aims to increase recruitment of youth in Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers including water and wastewater operators.



- It profiles Indigenous role models and offers a mentorship program.
- TYCOP is currently exploring the possibility of expanding their program into other provinces to reach more youth across the country.

Water Movement's Online Learning Library

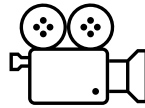
- Water Movement is a non-profit organization focused on supporting Indigenous water and wastewater operators based out of Calgary and connected to Engineers without Borders
- Online learning library consists of technical videos, classroom style videos and cultural videos for preserving Indigenous traditions
- Funded by ISC to develop 100 videos for troubleshooting, learning, and culture.
- For more information www.watermovement.ca



Res'Eau's Operators' Walkthrough Lab

- The Operators' Walkthrough Lab (OWL) was created through a partnership with RESEAU Centre for Mobilization.
- OWL is a next-generation training platform designed to convey a real-world understanding of drinking water disinfection approaches for communities, including system design and operation, as well as a fundamental understanding of the importance of clean water to community health and quality of life.
- www.reseaucmi.org/work/owl

Creator's Gift Video



- The video focuses on water operators and their important role in Indigenous communities including their role in public health
- ISC will support funding, likely with Water Movement, for development of the new video

Looking forward ...

- **Capacity Building and Working Together**
 - Continuing to support First Nations on building capacity and diversity of water operators through internships for youth, strategies to increase the number of women in water operator careers, and other activities
 - Exploring policy issues and approaches - working with regional offices on a range of topics to better support water and wastewater service delivery on reserve

Merci
Thank You
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