



Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories in First Nation Communities

Presentation by the Water and
Wastewater Infrastructure
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What is a Drinking Water Advisory?

- A Drinking Water Advisory (DWA) is a preventive measure put in place to protect public health from waterborne contaminants that could be, or are known to be, present in drinking water.
- DWAs are an imperfect measure to use as proxy for water quality.
- They include Boil Water Advisories (BWA), Do Not Consume (DNC) Advisories, and Do Not Use Advisories (DNUAs).
- In a First Nation community, a drinking water advisory can affect as little as one building and does not always represent a community-wide drinking water problem.
- The Government of Canada recognizes that more must be done to support First Nation communities in addressing these challenges.
- That's why Budget 2016 provides over \$1.8 billion over five years to First Nation communities to improve on-reserve water and wastewater infrastructure and over \$141 million for monitoring and testing.

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What are the Timeframes for Drinking Water Advisories?

- Short-Term: A DWA that is issued when the water monitoring system quickly detects an issue, the public is alerted in order to protect their health and safety, the issue is addressed, and the drinking water advisory is revoked. For example, a community may issue a short-term drinking water advisory for scheduled maintenance.
- Long-Term: A DWA that is put in place because a water system is not functioning well for a variety of reasons (e.g., poor capacity to operate the system, inadequate monitoring of the water quality, system cannot treat the water to the required quality, etc.).

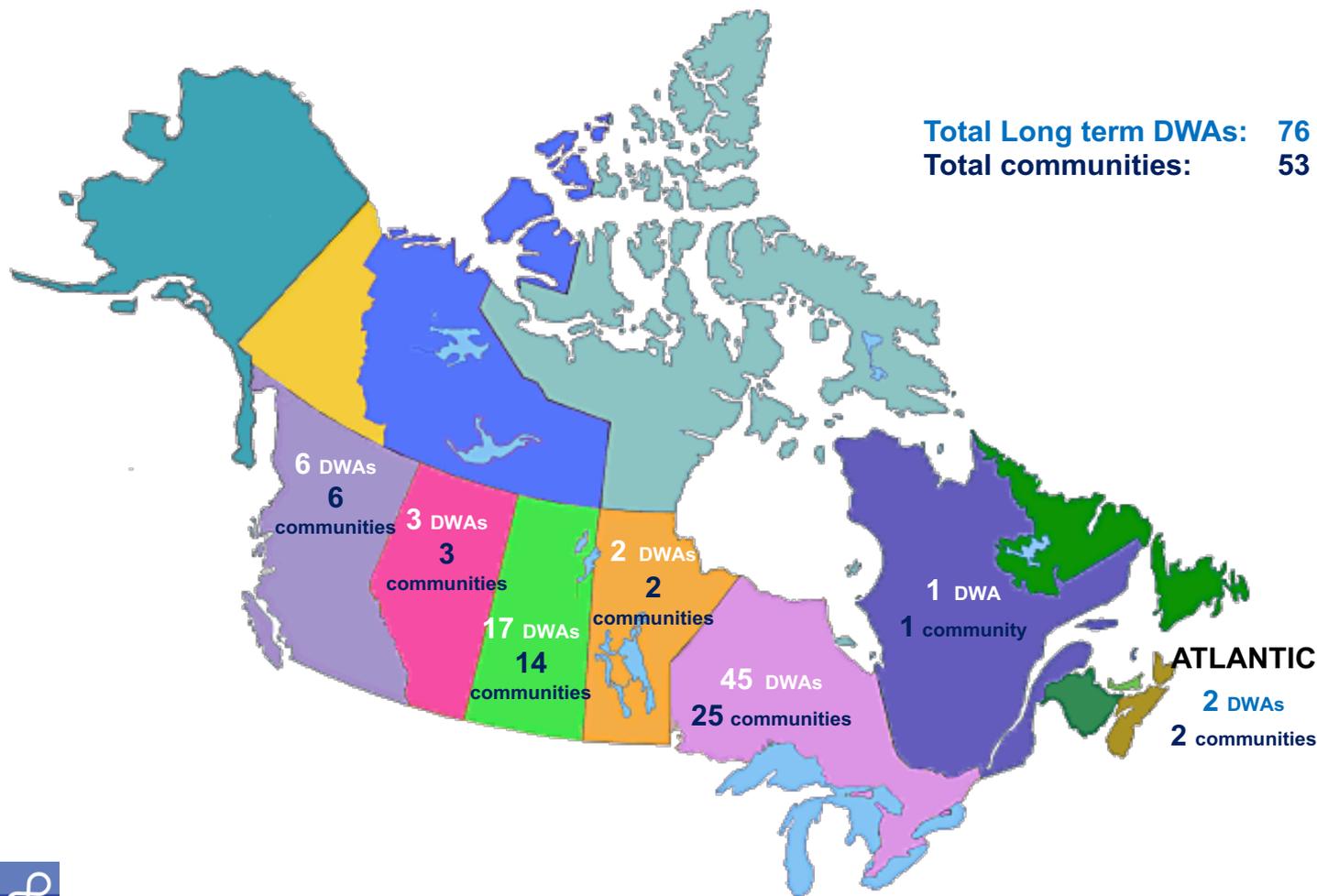
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Where are the Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories?

Long-term Drinking Water Advisories affecting INAC-funded systems per region



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How can Circuit Rider Trainers Help Resolve Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories?

- Circuit Rider Trainers are key partners to resolve DWAs.
- Qualified operators are critical to maintaining and operating water and wastewater systems such that these are sustainable through their entire life-cycle, and also such that they produce potable water or wastewater effluent that meets required regulations or guidelines.
- Please ensure that you continue to work in close collaboration with Chiefs and Councils, their operators and other key Band employees, Regional INAC staff, and Health Canada on-the-ground personnel such as Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) to resolve critical systems issues that can lead to Long-Term DWAs.

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Helping to Resolve the Situation by Exchanging Knowledge and Information – Break Out Session

- What do you know about the Long-Term DWAs in your Region?
- What do you think could be done to resolve the Long-Term DWAs in your Region?
- What are the barriers and difficulties to are preventing the lifting of the Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories in your Region?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK TO HELP
RESOLVE LONG-TERM DWAs!

