

# TRILATERAL COLLABORATION ON FIRST NATIONS DRINKING WATER

Wesley Bova, P.Eng  
OFNTSC President



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada



Ontario First Nations  
Technical Services  
Corporation



**Ontario**

Ministry of the Environment  
and Climate Change





- There is a Federal commitment to address long-term DWAs by March, 2021.
- Ontario has provincial mandate to work with indigenous partners and the federal government towards a five year plan to provide First Nation communities with access to safe drinking water, with a focus on remote communities.



# Drinking Water Advisories

Drinking water advisories are issued as a precaution when water may not be safe for consumption.

- May be issued due to adverse water quality sampling results.
- May be issued as notification of potential risk (such as loss of pressure due to a line break).
- May be issued as part planned work.





# Trilateral Steering Committee and Working Group

A collaborative partnership that shares and discusses information and develops strategies to support First Nations communities in resolving long-term drinking water advisories (LTDWAs) and to work towards ensuring long-term safe sustainable drinking water in communities.

*Working in Partnership with First Nation Communities,  
Tribal Councils, Provincial Territorial Organizations and  
Chiefs of Ontario.*



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada



Ontario First Nations  
Technical Services  
Corporation



Ontario

Ministry of the Environment  
and Climate Change

# Trilateral Steering Committee

Steering Committee meets monthly and includes representatives from PTOs, Tribal Councils which represent communities with Long-Term Advisories



# Trilateral Working Groups

**LTDWA Working Group** works under the Steering Committee, meets by teleconference biweekly and updates current status and action plans for all LTDWAs

**Operator Training and Support Working Group** has recently been formed to work towards operators having necessary support, skills and confidence to provide safe drinking water

**API Working Group** has recently been formed to look at making Annual Performance Inspections more valuable and relevant to actual conditions in First Nations





## Initial Focus on eliminating long-term drinking water advisories (LTDWAs):

- Advisories issued by Health Canada
- In place longer than one year
- INAC funded public drinking water systems
- As of April 1 2016, there were 48 long-term DWAs in 26 communities
- Currently there are 44 long-term DWAs in 22 communities



## Action and Implementation Plan:

- Collect information on status of projects underway
- Roles, responsibilities, concrete actions that can be taken by each partner organization
- Estimates schedule to eliminate each LTDWA
- Considering methods to compress schedule while feasible and possible
- Consider risk to each project





# Current Status of Advisories

Project Stage	# Advisories	# Communities
Project Development	1	1
Feasibility	10	7
Design	12	4
Construction	21	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22*</b>

As of January 18, 2018

\* One community has projects in both feasibility and construction phase



# Target Dates to Resolve LTDWAs

Target Date to Resolve LTDWA	# Advisories	# Communities
April 2018	14	5
April 2019	9	6
April 2020	11	5
March 2021	9	6
To Be Determined	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>

As of January 2018





Trilateral Group is also monitoring status of communities which have been on a drinking water advisory of 2 months or more, or which the Group is aware may become a prolonged advisory

- There are 6 DWAs in 6 communities which are being monitored
- 2 of these advisories are expected to become long-term as major capital works are needed
- Action Plans are being developed where needed



Trilateral Group has a mandate to look at LTDWAs.

There are many water systems which are high risk,  
but are not currently on an advisory

*We don't want to leave communities behind*





## Next Steps

- Continue to monitor project progress
- Look at ways to expedite timelines
- Provide technical assistance / advice where requested