



ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS
OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS SECRETARIAT

OUR WATER. OUR FUTURE.

Setting the High Water Mark for Atlantic First Nations.

AFN Water Symposium - February 6-8, 2018

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Current Activities for 2017-2018

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1. Corporate Structuring of the AFNWA

- Develop recommendations for a corporate structure for the AFNWA
- Development of a preliminary business plan for the AFNWA

2. Financial Analysis – On-going

- Contract awarded to Ulnooweg Development Inc.
- Analysis of water and wastewater expenditures

3. Life-Cycle Analysis – *Contract awarded to CBCL Ltd.*

- Engineering analysis on the status of all water and wastewater assets

4. Evaluate Water Safety Plans for Communities

- WSPs represent a new regulatory tool that could be used by communities to manage drinking water operations

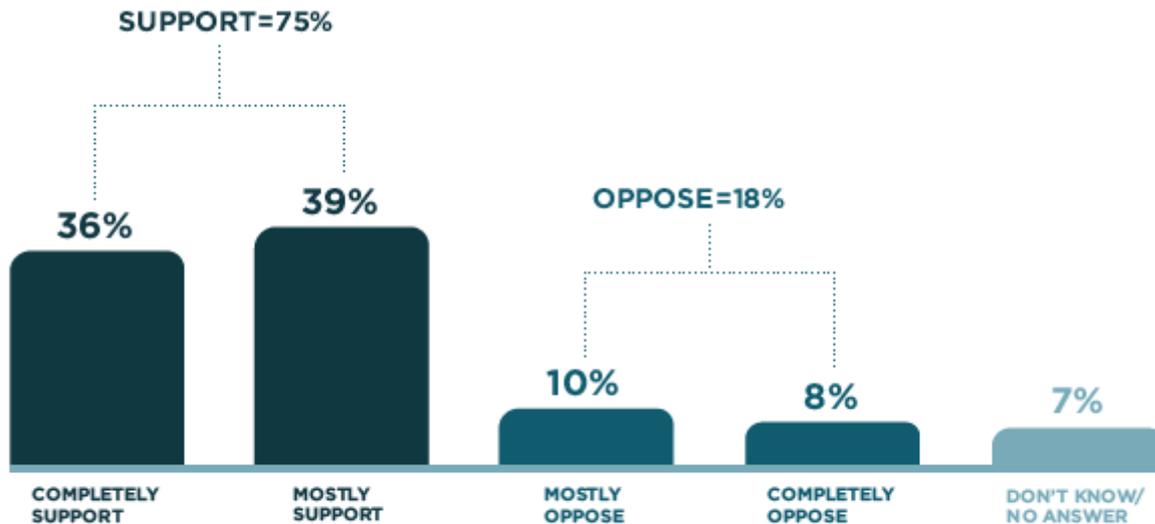
Strong Public Support

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- A November 2017 poll undertaken by Corporate Research Associates shows that 75 percent of Atlantic Canadians support First Nations having an independently owned and operated water authority.
- Recent public opinion research validates this approach as the right path forward.
- Nearly all (98%) of Atlantic Canadians hold the belief that all residents should have access to clean and safe drinking water, regardless of location.
- Common reasons for the support of an independently owned and operated First Nations water authority include:
 - It is a right for First Nations communities
 - Communities should be responsible for their own water
 - It can be done safely with appropriate regulations

Support for Independently Owned Authority

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Q.AP7: All things considered, do you completely support, mostly support, mostly oppose, or completely oppose First Nations having an independent water authority owned and operated by First Nations? (n=1500)

75% of Atlantic Canadians Support an Independent Water Authority

Communications Opportunities

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- **Social:** Atlantic Canadians agree that access to water is a basic human right. There is very little awareness regarding the fact that Atlantic communities do not have access to safe drinking water and waste water. In addition, we know that clean water and public sanitation realizes better health outcomes for all.
- **Economic:** A First Nation Water Authority will generate economic opportunity with the capital investments required to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure (an example of “economic” reconciliation). With core infrastructure in place to facilitate growth, communities can pursue development to further economic opportunity.

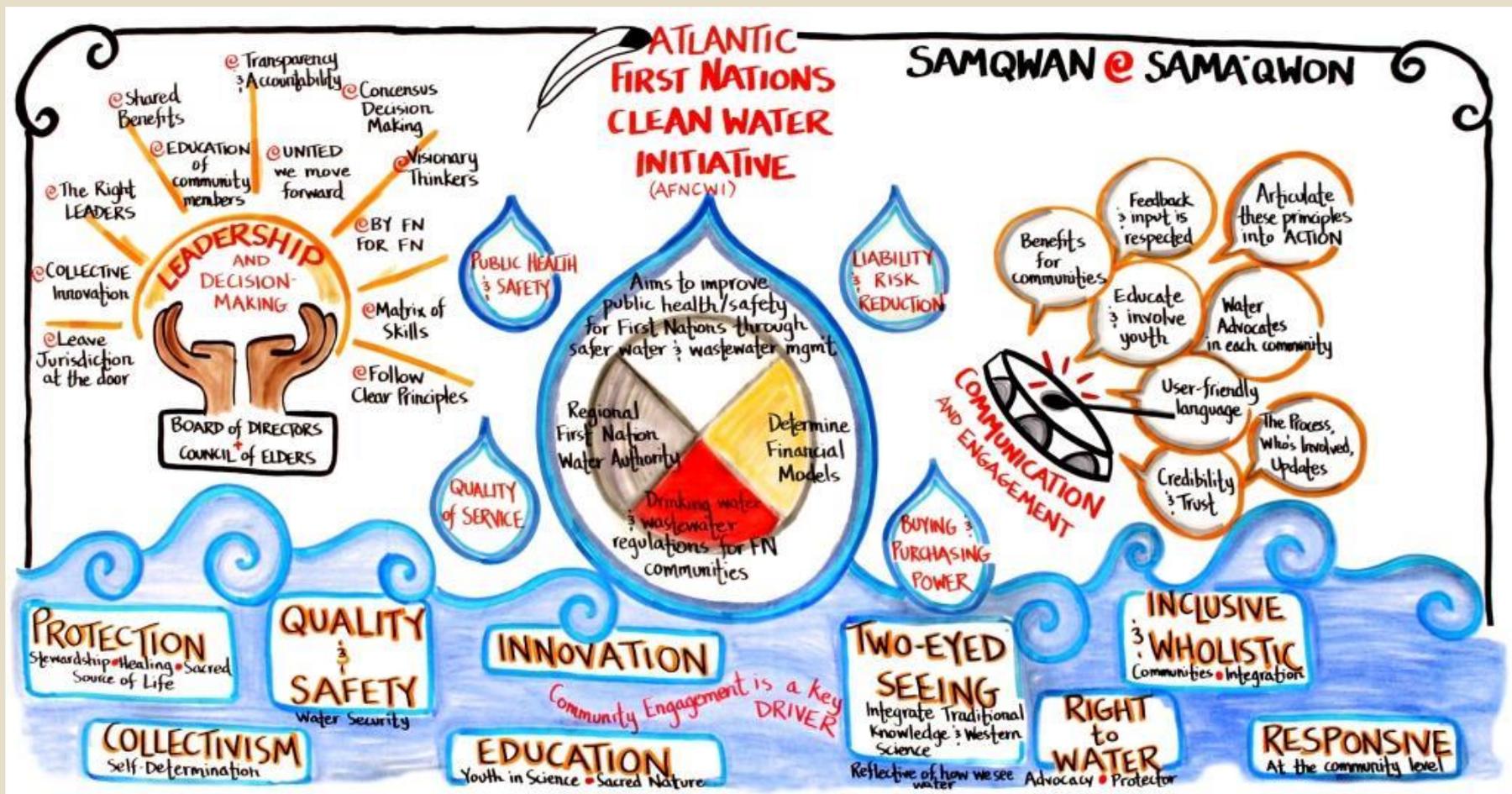
Communications Opportunities

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- **Political:** We understand via the federal government's past mandate letters, throne speech, and recent comments from the PM's UN Speech, that water represents a key aspect of reconciliation between the government and First Nation communities.
- **Cultural:** The Regional water authority will allow for long-term financial planning "seven generations in the future". The AFNWA will be a First Nations Institution with an Elders Council, who will incorporate concepts of two-eyed seeing and First Nations values into the organization.

Based on Best Practices and Sound Evidence Our Water Authority Represents a Path to Safe Water for Generations

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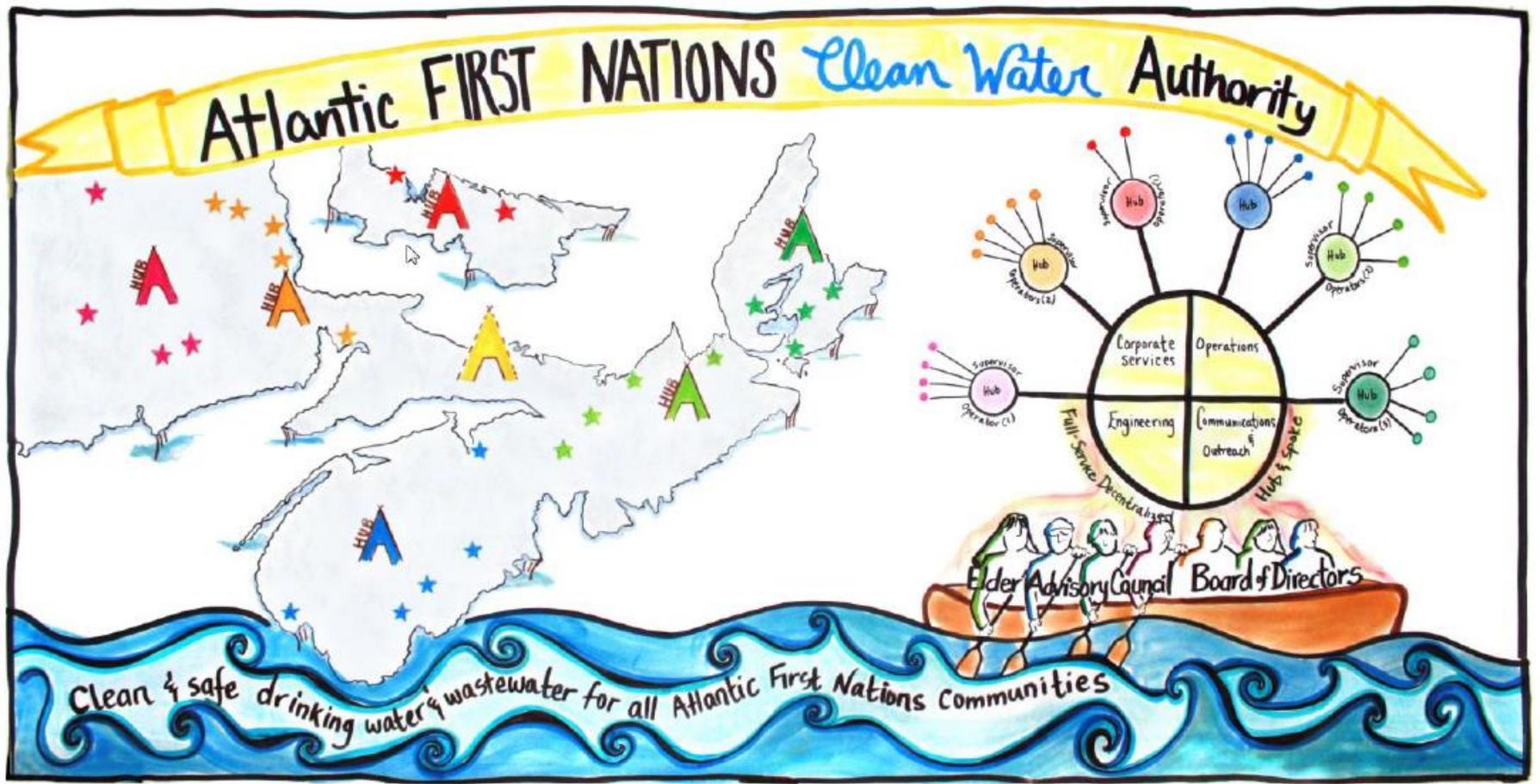


AFNWA Corporate Structure

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Water Authority has a Service Accountability that is Equitable and Based on Two-Eyed Seeing

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Key Recommendations

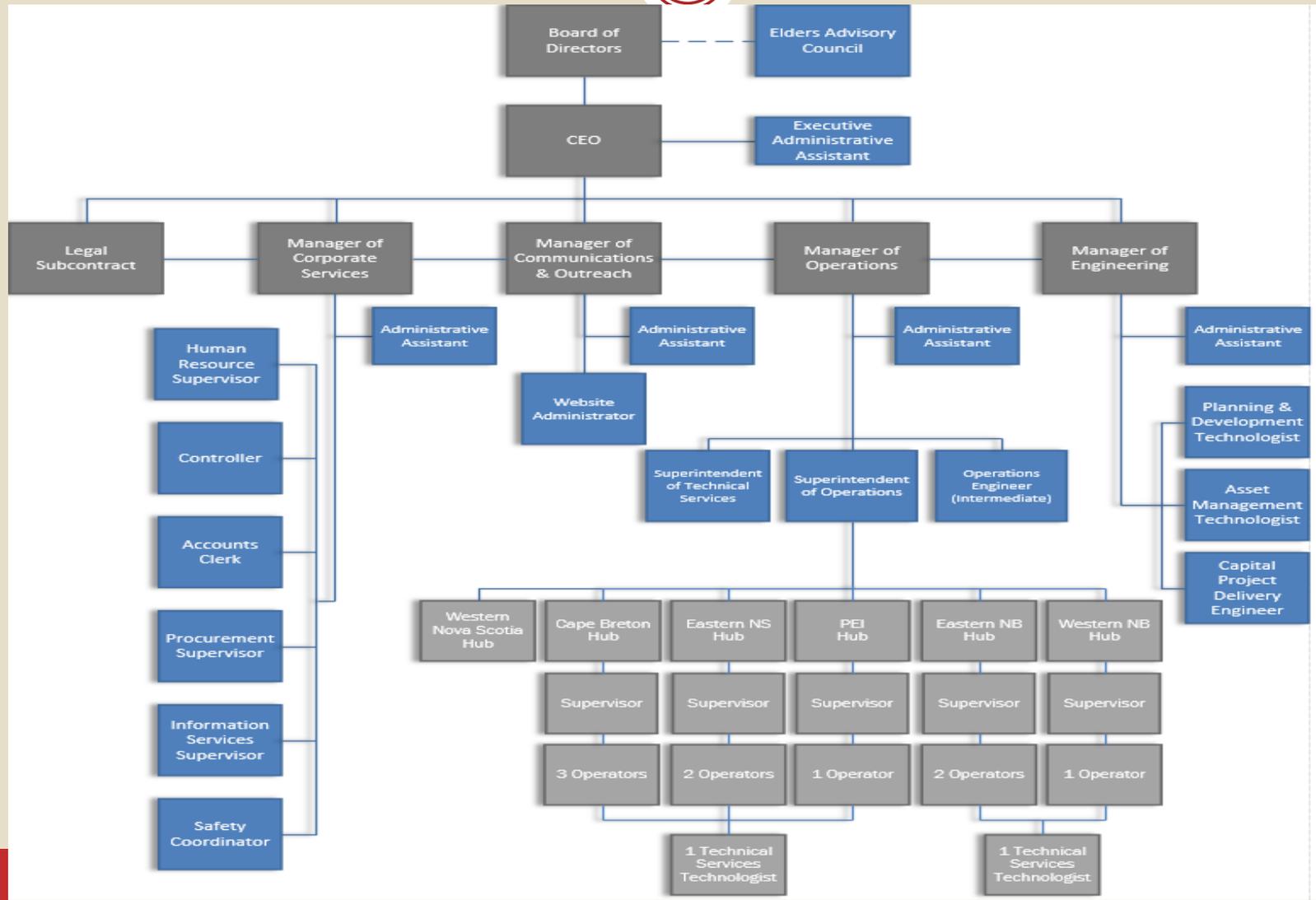
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- Adopt a full service – decentralized structure for the AFNWA.
- Locate the main office of the AFNWA within the service corridor between Halifax and Moncton in a First Nation community
- Once the decision is made to operationalize the AFNWA, contract with a professional search organization to hire the CEO and senior managers to ensure top talent is retained.
- Efforts should be made to hire all staff within one year after the decision is made to operationalize the AFNWA

Key Recommendations

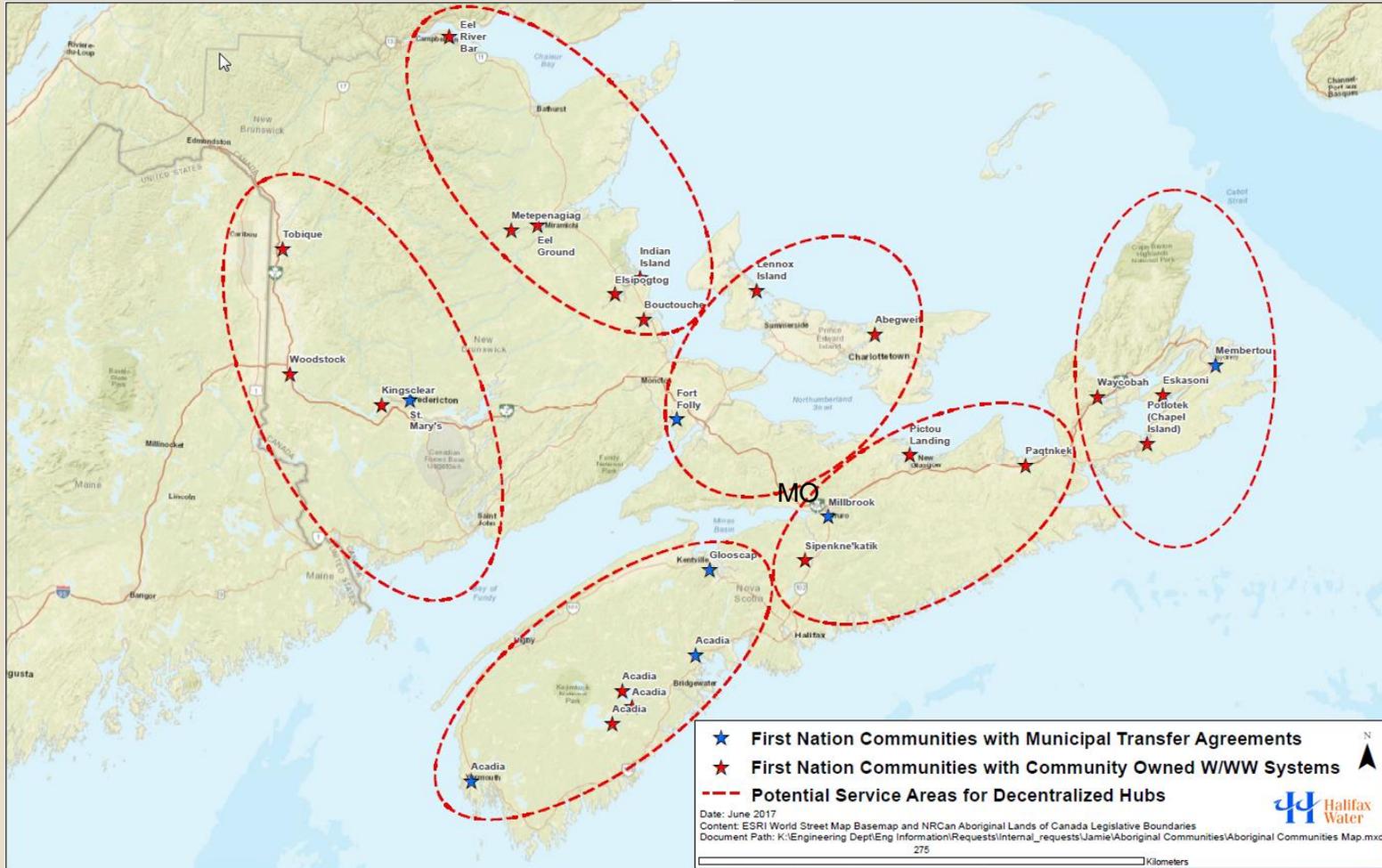
- The AFNWA should adopt a formal training and development program for all staff employed by the AFNWA.
- Local operators should be hired wherever possible with an immediate focus on training and certification.
- Human Resource strategies should recognize the experience and knowledge of staff currently employed in water and wastewater system operations and take a consistent approach to salaries, benefits, training and career development
- Communications and outreach are central to the success of the AFNWA and full efforts must be made to engage communities in an open and transparent manner.

Full Service – Decentralized [FSD]



First Nation Communities & Proposed Service Regions for FSD Alternative

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Financial Analysis

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Phased Approach & Overall Status

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Phase 1 Financial Analysis Plan

- Agree on a standardized methodology for collection and analysis of financial data

Phase 2 Data Collection

- Activate and undertake a community outreach and engagement process
- Collection and analysis of financial data
 - Participating First Nations
 - INAC
 - Health Canada

DATA REQUEST MADE

Phase 3 Analysis and Consolidation

- Review of current actual costs for each participating community
- Definition of the 80% - 20% split to establish the expected community contribution
- Gap analysis to identify funding requirements
- Analysis of the impact on participating communities (benefits, cost efficiencies, impact on other programs)
- Assessment/description of impacts by community

CURRENT STAGE

Engineering Analysis

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Purpose

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- Contract awarded to CBCL Ltd. to complete a cost analysis for the infrastructure required to bring the existing water and wastewater assets, in the 21 participating First Nation communities across Atlantic Canada, into compliance with regulation, and provide a high level estimate of costs for on-going renewal of existing assets.

Past Reports

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- Previous Studies will inform this assessment, they include:
 - National Assessment of First Nation Water and Wastewater Systems – 2009-2011
 - Atlantic Canada First Nations Water & Wastewater Asset Condition Assessment – CBCL 2013
- In addition to these studies, there is more data available through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and from individual communities.
- Using these reports, a consultant will complete a table-top exercise to update the 2013 CBCL assessment.
- CBCL will make community visits when needed.

Next Steps of the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority

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2018-2019

- Incorporation and election of first board of directors
- Engage a executive recruiting firm to hire CEO
- Hire Senior Staff
- Establish Head Office with Training Facility

Next Steps – Fiscal Years 2019-2023

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- Water Authority will begin to operationalize
 - Begin operations of community systems
- Capital upgrades begin
 - Capital upgrades will based on priorities set by engineering assessment voted on by the board of directors.
- Operator training developed and implemented