

Canada's Approach to Clean Drinking Water

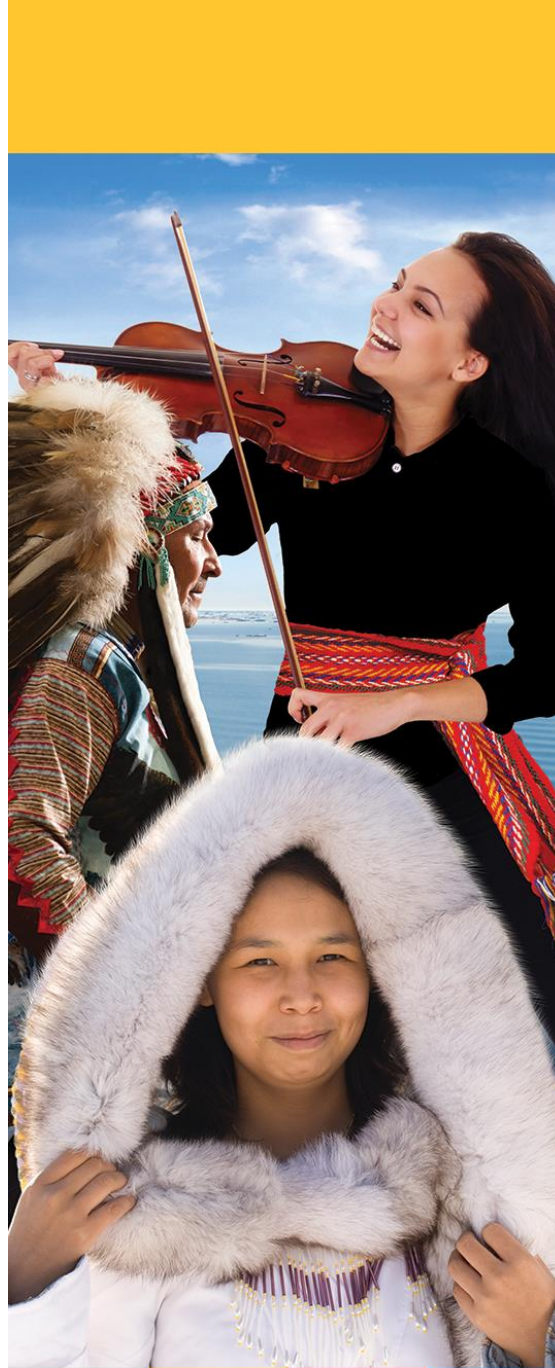
Assembly of First Nations
National Water Symposium & Trade Show

Reconciliation Through Sustainable Water Management

Vancouver, BC

Chad Westmacott
Senior Director, Strategic Water Management

February 6, 2018



Canada's Commitment to Clean Drinking Water

Government committed to strengthen water and wastewater infrastructure in First Nation communities and end long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves by March 2021

Budget 2016 provided \$1.8 billion over five years to

- ✓ improve on-reserve water and wastewater infrastructure
- ✓ ensure proper facility operation and maintenance
- ✓ support the training of water system operators

Also provided \$141.7 million over 5 years to improve drinking water monitoring and testing on reserve


As of September 2017, more than \$718 million in targeted funding has been allocated to support 349 water and wastewater projects, operations and maintenance, and training



Expanded Scope

Announced on January 23, 2018


Commitment:
END ALL LONG-TERM DRINKING WATER ADVISORIES
on public systems on reserve

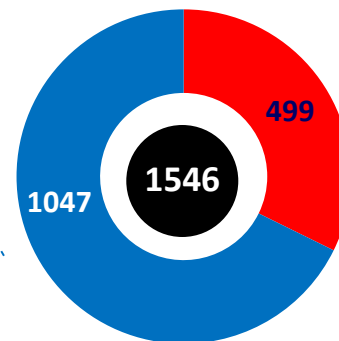
1000+ public drinking water systems included in this commitment by Indigenous Services Canada 

ALL long-term drinking water advisories to be **lifted by** **MARCH 2021**

91 long-term drinking water advisories in effect

40 long-term drinking water advisories lifted on public systems since November 2015

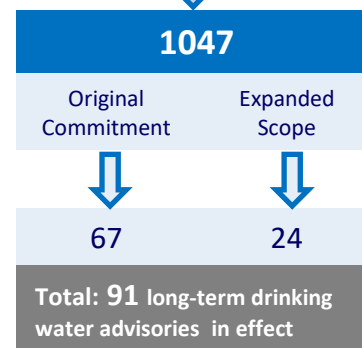
26 have been added 



1546 – drinking water systems on reserve

499 – systems that serve commercial and other facilities

1047 – public drinking water systems included in the commitment



As of January 23, 2018

Current Status

As of February 1, 2018

	Nov 2015 Baseline	LT DWAs in effect	LT DWAs Resolved	LT DWAs Added	DWAs 2-12 months old
Original Commitment					
Atlantic	3	1	4	2	0
Quebec	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	43	45	9	10	5
Manitoba	1	3	2	4	3
Saskatchewan	13	10	8	5	4
Alberta	3	3	0	0	1
BC	14	6	9	1	1
Sub-Total	77	68	32	22	14
Expanded Scope					
Atlantic	2	1	1	0	0
Quebec	3	0	3	0	0
Ontario	16	15	2	2	1
Manitoba	3	3	1	1	3
Alberta	0	0	1	1	0
BC	4	5	0	1	0
Sub-Total	28	24	8	5	4
Total	105	92	40	27	18



Canada's Approach

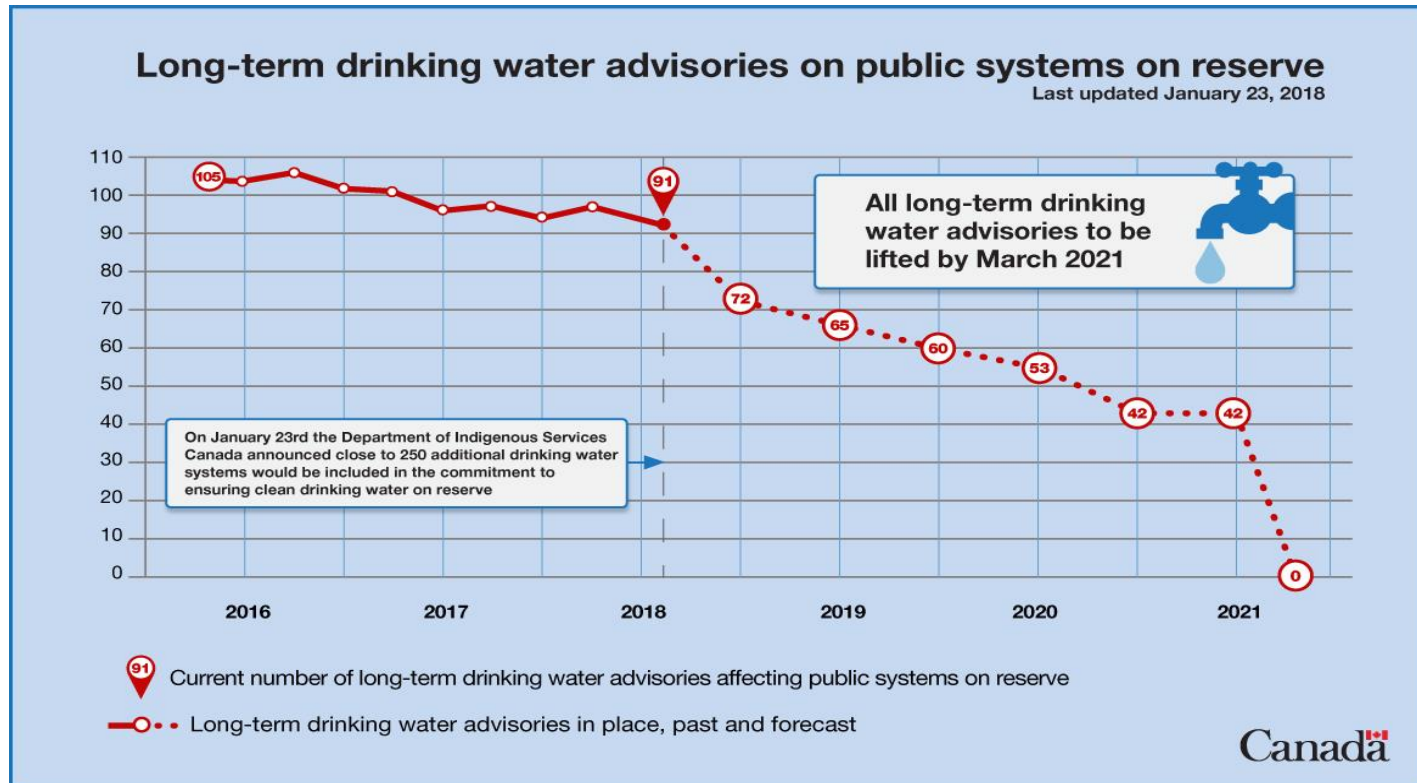
Working in partnership with communities to develop individual action plans for **preventing** and **resolving** long-term drinking water advisories

Specifically, from an infrastructure perspective, the department:

- ✓ Helps identify the cause of the advisory;
- ✓ Provides advice on the planning and design of appropriate infrastructure;
- ✓ Provides capital and O&M funding;
- ✓ Supports training and capacity building; and
- ✓ Supports First Nations organizations to improve service delivery

Efforts to resolve long-term drinking water advisories can include interim measures while longer-term sustainable solutions are pursued

Looking Ahead to 2021



Post-Commitment

- ✓ Short-term drinking water advisories may continue to be issued as preventive measures to protect public health
- ✓ Longer-term solutions to be completed
- ✓ Work underway toward longer-term sustainability of water and wastewater systems on reserve



Long-Term Sustainability

Long-term and chronic water and wastewater management issues will not be fully captured simply by addressing drinking water advisories

Need to ensure:

- ✓ Predictable and longer-term capital investments;
- ✓ Operations and maintenance funding, including water operator salaries;
- ✓ Water operator recruitment and retention; and
- ✓ Creative solutions for small and remote communities



Next Steps

Work with stakeholders to define a sustainable self-determination model

- ✓ Continue to work on eliminating long-term drinking water advisories
- ✓ Continue to implement longer-term solutions
- ✓ Review of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*

Long-term strategy

- ✓ Approach to Operations and Maintenance
- ✓ Approach to service delivery
- ✓ Care and control of water and wastewater

