



# Indigenous Services Canada and Clean Drinking Water for First Nations

2019 AFN Water Symposium – Plenary

February 26, 2019

Chad Westmacott, Senior Director  
Strategic Water Management



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada

Canada

# Overview

- Canada's Commitment to Clean Drinking Water
- Water and Wastewater Program
- Update on Long-term Drinking Water Advisories
- Safe Drinking Water Legislation
- Actions in the Medium Term
- Success Stories and Innovation
- Looking towards Long-term Sustainability
- Discussion

# Canada's Commitment to Clean Drinking Water

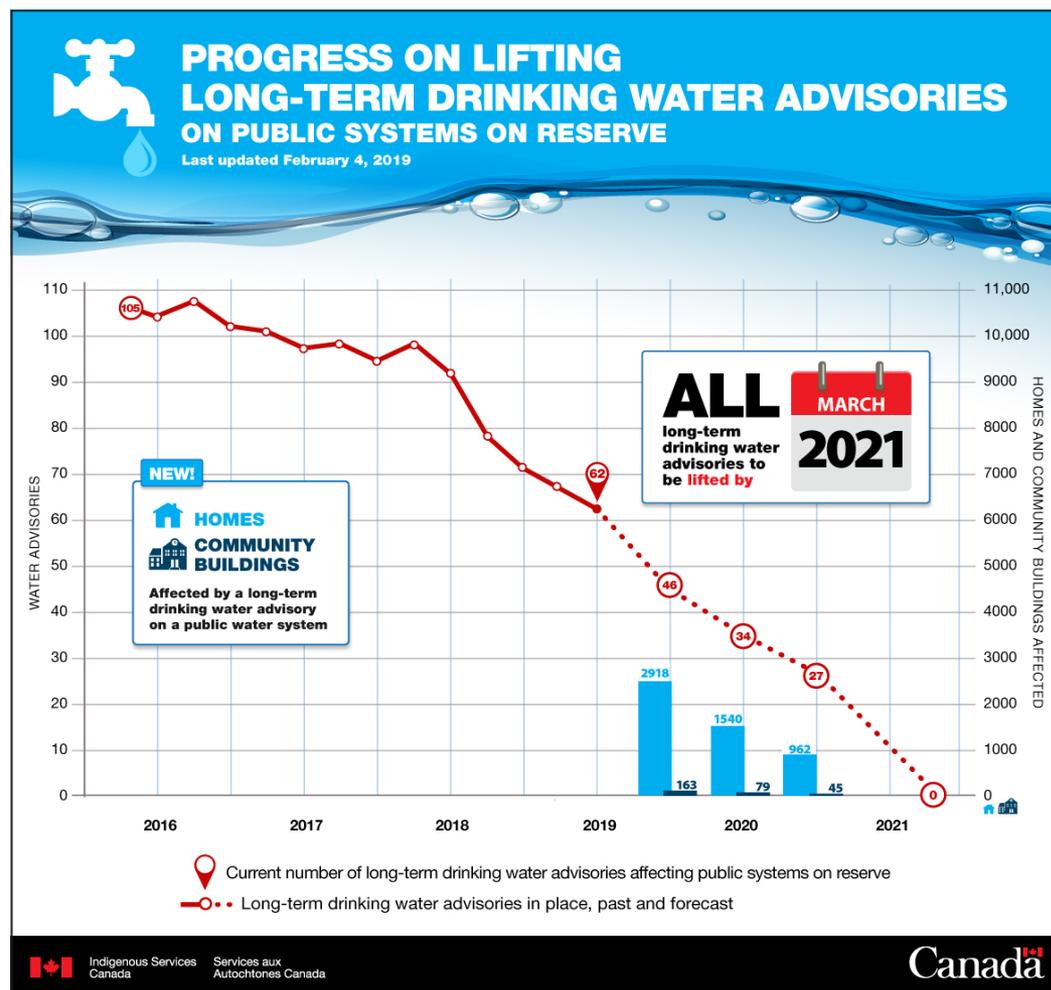
- Access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water for First Nations is a priority for the Government of Canada
- The Government of Canada committed to:
  - Ending long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserve
  - Strengthening water and wastewater infrastructure in First Nations

# Water and Wastewater Program

- Starting in 2016-17, the Government began investing over \$2 Billion over five years to:
  - upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
  - eliminate long-term drinking water advisories
  - improve monitoring and testing of community drinking water on reserve
- ISC works with First Nations to deliver funding and support clean drinking water and reliable wastewater treatment
- Funding provided for:
  - Major capital projects
  - Minor capital
  - Operations and Maintenance
  - Capacity building / training

# Update on Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories

- To date, over 185 water and wastewater projects have been completed
- 79 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted
  - The most recent First Nation: Northwest Angle No. 37 (ON) February 20, 2019
- 61 long-term drinking water advisories remaining
- 118 short-term (2-12 months) resolved



# Actions for the Medium Term

- Circuit Rider Training Program
- Supporting operator recognition
- Technical service delivery hubs
- Training / funding opportunities
- Supporting youth career outreach initiatives with focus on water operations and females
- National First Nation Water Leadership Award

 **GovCan - Indigenous**   
Canada @GCIndigenous

Follow

Shout out to #FirstNation water operators and Circuit Rider Trainers! With the skills and knowledge gained from the Circuit Rider Training Program, water operators work hard to ensure their communities continue to have clean drinking water. [ow.ly/ihKM30lcSKz](https://ow.ly/ihKM30lcSKz) #cleanwater



10:35 AM - 21 Aug 2018

# Success Stories and Innovation



Minister Jane Philpott

@Min\_IndServ

Follow

Congratulations to the Water Olympics winners (as part of the 17th Water Operators Conference). Their hard work is bringing #cleanwater to #Indigenous communities in Quebec!



6:14 AM - 1 Jun 2018

- \$980.5M invested in 505 First Nation water and wastewater infrastructure projects
  - 191 projects complete and 314 in progress
  - 79 LT-DWAs lifted (36 added)
- Centralized technical support
  - Hubs
- Bringing partners to the table
  - Advisory Working Groups / Tri-lateral Tables
- Bulk purchasing
  - Stockpile of essential system parts/ Common inspection equipment to loan
- Support First Nations-led institutions
  - The Atlantic Policy Congress

# Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act

- Act being reviewed as a result of long-standing concerns
- AFN leading the engagement process – will include a Joint Working Group with ISC and other departments
- As one option, a framework for new legislation will be co-developed
- ISC-led engagement process with:
  - Modern Treaty and Self-Governing Nations
  - Any other First Nations or Indigenous Representative Organizations that do not want to participate in the AFN-led process

# Looking towards Long-term Sustainability

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

- Safe Drinking Water Legislation
- Operations and Maintenance Reform
- Solutions for small and remote communities
- Preventing advisories from being issued
- Medium-term actions leading to 2021
- Work with First Nations on long-term sustainability of water and wastewater infrastructure

## Next Steps

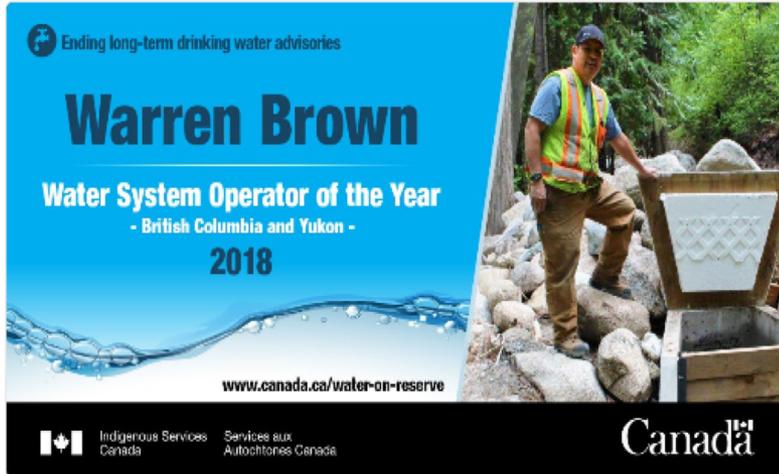
- Long-term strategy to be co-developed for post-2021 with AFN and First Nation partners

# Thank you to First Nation leadership, water operators, and all others with a role in water / wastewater



GovCan - Indigenous @GCIndigenous · Sep 26

Congratulations to Warren Brown on receiving the Operator of the Year Award at the @EOCPBCY Gala in BC! Thanks to his hard work and leadership, Lytton #FirstNation members continue to have reliable access to safe drinking water. #FNinfra ow.ly/IVrX30IWIVn



5 3



Minister Jane Philpott @Min\_IndServ · 17h

Indigenous water operators & analysts are essential to maintain clean water in #FirstNation communities. Way to go graduates of the Water First internship program for #IndigenousYouth! @waterfirstngo



Pilot project trains Indigenous youth to help tackle water challenges i...

A pilot project on Manitoulin Island in giving a group of Indigenous youth the skills and training to ensure their communities have quality drinking water.

cbc.ca

# THANK YOU, MIIGWETCH, MERCI

---

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Search Canada.ca

Jobs | Immigration | Travel | Business | Benefits | Health | Taxes | More services

Home → Indigenous Services Canada → Water in First Nation communities

## Ending long-term drinking water advisories



[www.canada.ca/water-on-reserve](http://www.canada.ca/water-on-reserve)