



CALL FOR PRESENTERS

**3rd Annual AFN National Water Symposium and Tradeshow:
“First Nations Water Future Post-2021”**
November 20-22, 2019
Fairmont Royal York
100 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario

The government of Canada has committed to ending all long-term drinking water advisories on-reserve by March of 2021...but what will happen after that? This year the annual AFN National Water Symposium and Tradeshow will focus on answering this question.

Access to water and sanitation is a human right that not all First Nations enjoy equitably as all Canadians do. The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Call to Action 4.1 states that “[A]ll governments must immediately ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to safe housing, clean drinking water, and adequate food.” While addressing the Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories on First Nations public systems is good and important work, this is only the first step in modernizing First Nations water and wastewater infrastructures. Other issues remain such as First Nations rights and title to water and water bodies, the challenges of climate change and the continued assertions of jurisdiction by provincial and territorial governments. Finally, the previous government’s problematic *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* remains a valid law and must be repealed and replaced.

In this context, the National Water Symposium and Tradeshow will focus on the post-2021 water and wastewater future for First Nations. The AFN is calling for presenters, to bring forward their work and ideas on what this water future might be, particularly First Nations youth and women.

The Symposium topics will include:

- Repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* and what it means for First Nations;
- Addressing water quality issues and drinking water advisories;
- Climate change impacts on water quality and quantity;
- Health aspects of water and quality of life;
- Solid waste, water and wastewater treatment innovative technology;
- Sustainable Water Management, Watershed and Source Water Protection;
- New approaches to training; and
- Medium and long-term trends in water issues and water governance.

Prepared on: September 19, 2019

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Water Symposium and Tradeshow**

First Nations Water Future Post-2021

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**3^e Symposium national annuel de l'APN
et foire commerciale sur l'eau**

L'avenir de l'eau des Premières Nations après 2021

20 au 22 novembre 2019

Symposium attendees will include First Nations leadership from across Canada, water technicians, Public Works department staff, other First Nation infrastructure technicians, consultants, Government officials and non-governmental entities and leading members of academia with an interest in First Nation water and wastewater issues.

The submission format is as follows:

- A description of your presentation (**max length: 200 words**) including how it relates to the post-2021 First Nations water and wastewater future;
- The presenter(s)' biography(ies) (**max length: 100 words**) must be included; and,
- Limited to a maximum of three (3) presenters per submission.

Note that workshops and presentations with options for attendee participation are welcomed and encouraged. The AFN is working actively to have this Symposium count towards water and wastewater operators Continuing Education Units (CEUs), so please identify if your proposed presentation should count towards CEUs in your submission.

The submission should be provided in **MSWord format** and be submitted electronically identifying "*AFN National Water Symposium - Submission*" in the subject line.

Submit by email to: Nov2019WaterSymposium@afn.ca

Please note that submissions may be edited for length for Symposium documentation, digital and/or hard copy.

Submission Deadline: October 9, 2019 at 5:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

Individuals with successful submissions will be notified on or before October 21, 2019.

Please note that due to the limited budget for this important event, presenters will be responsible for their own travel costs; however, under exceptional circumstances, a full or partial travel subsidy could be considered on an individual basis, upon request in writing.

If you have any questions, please contact the AFN Special Advisor-Water, Mr. Caleb Behn at cbehn@afn.ca.