



## **HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE: SAFE WATER FOR FIRST NATIONS**

### **OVERVIEW**

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In 2013, the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* (SDWFNA) came into force despite numerous objections by First Nations. First Nations have repeatedly called for the repeal of the SDWFNA.

As a result of the advocacy efforts by First Nations and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is responding to calls for the repeal of the

SDWFNA. ISC proposed that the AFN take the lead in conceptualizing, elaborating, designing and implementing a re-envisioned engagement process for the review of the current Act, with support from ISC.

ISC has also proposed that AFN lead an engagement process with First Nations and work in partnership with ISC to develop elements of a revised or replacement Act.

### **UPDATE**

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AFN Resolution 88/2017, *First Nations led Engagement Process for Safe Drinking Water Legislation*, directs the AFN to establish a Working Group comprised of AFN, the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure and their regional technicians, federal representatives, legal counsel for AFN and the

federal government and other experts, as necessary, to co-develop a draft framework for new legislation.

AFN Resolution 88/2017 further directs the AFN to co-develop a framework for a First Nations Water Commission with First Nations and ISC.

### **NEXT STEPS**

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In accordance with AFN Resolution 88/2017, the AFN is proposing the establishment of a joint Working Group comprised of AFN, CCoHI and Regional Technicians, federal representatives, legal counsel for AFN and the federal government, and other experts, as necessary.

The AFN will lead a First Nations led engagement process with First Nations to ensure that the co-development of new legislation and a framework for a First Nations Water Commission.

This joint Working Group will oversee the co-development of a draft framework for new legislation and a framework for a First Nations Water Commission that is respectful of First Nations inherent rights and Indigenous laws, and meets the spirit and intent of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The AFN will seek a commitment from ISC for multi-year funding to support First Nations engagement session.