



SPRING 2021

SAMQWAN + SAGE SAMAQAN

Leading progress, innovation, and a long-term solution for water and wastewater management for Atlantic First Nations communities.

The Atlantic First Nations Water Authority (AFNWA) is a not-for-profit, pan-Atlantic water utility that is owned and operated for First Nations, by First Nations. Our goal is to provide clean drinking water and safe wastewater services to participating First Nations communities.

AFNWA will be responsible for the operation, maintenance, and capital upgrades of all water and wastewater assets in each participating First Nations community. We are committed to helping build stronger First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada, in support of long-term plans for the communities we serve.

2021 PROGRESS UPDATE

It's full steam ahead for AFNWA; a trickle is now a flowing stream. Since our first newsletter issue in December, we have reached new milestones that we're excited to share.

- » Following a peer review by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), our completed Business Case was submitted to the Government of Canada. The OCWA review was a solid endorsement of the work to date and the path ahead.
- » [AFNWA's team continues to grow](#). We're pleased to welcome:
 - Mohamed Osman, Asset Management Technologist
 - Heather Patriarche, Administrative Assistant
 - Chantal LeBlanc, Manager of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
 - James Trimble, Manager of Operations
- With nine (9) full-time staff currently, AFNWA expects to employ 40 by Spring 2022
- » The Board of Directors welcomes [Eskasoni's Chief Leroy Denny to the AFNWA Board](#). Eskasoni is the largest First Nations community in Atlantic Canada with a population near 5,000, and we are honoured to have Chief Leroy join us.
- » Global News and APTN teamed with the Institute for Investigative Journalism, to produce [Broken Promises](#). AFNWA interim CEO, Carl Yates was featured as part of the story as well as Tobique's lead Operator, Gregg Brewer. Find the story at: <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/first-nations-water-operators-federal-government>.
- » Carl Yates, CEO of AFNWA, is the 2021 recipient of the [AWWA Abel Wolman Award of Excellence](#), which recognizes 'those whose careers in the water profession exemplify vision, creativity, and excellent professional performance.'
- » Two key projects underway are the [Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition \(SCADA\) Master Plan](#) and the [Asset Management Plan \(AMP\)](#).
 - The SCADA Master Plan is being conducted by Eramosa Engineering Inc. It includes a review of the hardware and software systems that control and monitor water/wastewater equipment and the development of a Desired State Report to be completed in fall 2021.
 - The AMP includes a framework for ongoing management of assets and a ten-year capital plan. The project will include wastewater environmental risk assessments, assessment of groundwater wells to determine if they are influenced by surface water, infrastructure condition assessments, and an operational survey to check valves on watermains, and inspect fire hydrants and manholes. The work is being carried out by Dillon Consulting Ltd.



“And today we’re making ourselves accountable. We’re making future governments accountable. And while there have been many reasons for the delay, I want to state as clearly as possible that, ultimately, I bear the responsibility for this, and I have the duty and responsibility to get this done. **Today we’re announcing an additional investment of more than \$1.5 billion to accelerate work to lift all long-term drinking water advisories on reserve.** What communities want is not an Ottawa-imposed deadline; it’s a long-term commitment to access to clean water.”

– The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada

Tied to this announcement is a commitment from the federal government to provide 100% funding for the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems in First Nations communities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

With a focus on building capacity and training future water workers, AFNWA teamed with NSCC and NBCC and established two scholarship opportunities for First Nations students. The *Nujo'tmuk Samuqwan Award* will be awarded for the first time this year at NSCC. At NBCC, we honour the memory of Danny Lanteigne, a leader in his First Nations community and the water and wastewater profession with rollout coming this spring.

As of April 1, we have a new office that will act as our headquarters. We are now located at 13 Treaty Trail in Millbrook, Nova Scotia.

Not only will AFNWA have a permanent headquarters with the new office, we are settling our presence online. You can soon visit our website at www.afnwa.ca, but for now, find us on [LinkedIn](#).

As Covid-19 restrictions ease, we look forward to site visits, workshops with community-based operators, information sessions for everyone, and event sponsorship.

STAYING CONNECTED

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 Find us on [LinkedIn](#)

 **NBCC**

nscc Foundation

