



SUMMER 2021

SAMQWAN SAMAQAN + SAGE

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 by First Nations, for 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, and supporting long-term planning initiatives.

2021 PROGRESS UPDATES

For AFNWA, spring was a time of thriving and reaching new milestones. As we thawed out over the season, water trickles grew into streams, and Atlantic Canada bloomed into summer. Our small organization experienced considerable growth during this time, and we share these updates with you.

- » [We welcomed five new members to our team:](#)
 - Derek Allison, Corporate Services Administrative Assistant
 - Pamela Harvie, Operations Administrative Assistant
 - Verna Langley, HR Generalist
 - Trevor Martin, IT Coordinator
 - Tiannie Paul, Operations Engineer
- » [AFNWA is very proud to announce the launch of our new website \[afnwa.ca\]\(http://afnwa.ca\).](#) This is a key objective of the Board-approved Communications and Outreach Strategy. Visit the site for upcoming career opportunities and to learn about our vision to provide sustainable water and wastewater services.
- » [We are pleased to announce that St. Mary's First Nation in New Brunswick](#) is the latest participant in our asset management planning (AMP) work.
- » The Board of Directors now has ten members, with [three new board members joining](#) in May 2021: Todd Hoskin, CEO of Ulnooweg Development along with Assembly of First Nations Regional Chiefs, Paul Prosper (Nova Scotia and Newfoundland) and Roger Augustine (New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). Our Board meets every two months to provide oversight on operations and is eager to host an in-person meeting soon.
- » [Upcoming Operators Workshop](#)

AFNWA encourages all community-based Operators to participate in the upcoming Operators Workshop on July 27, 2021 in Millbrook. We aim to host this session in person, following all health and safety requirements.
- » Currently, AFNWA is looking to secure [additional office space to house our growing team](#), and we aim to share an update shortly.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Summers in the east are always very warm, full of sun, and we Atlantic Canadians love being near the water. As provincial regulations ease, we hope to visit Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik communities, and enjoy gatherings with everyone.

In collaboration with Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC) and its Regional Water Coordinator, we will deliver virtual workshops over summer followed by a larger gathering in the fall. Topics will include water and wastewater regulatory regimes, clean drinking water, youth and water, careers in water, and water technology and innovations. The project takes inspiration from the Safe Drinking Water Foundation's Operation Water Spirit (OWS), which emphasizes First Nations culture and perspectives regarding water for First Nation students, and provides a new perspective to non-Indigenous students about the water issues facing First Nations.

For more information on upcoming workshops, educational opportunities, and careers, we encourage you to visit our new website at afnwa.ca. You can also visit us in-person at our office: 13 Treaty Trail in Millbrook, NS.

Without community-based water Operators, we may not have the resources to make high quality water. To acknowledge the important role of our Operators, AFNWA co-branded a t-shirt with the [American Water Works Association](#), a first for both organizations.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tiannie Paul, AFNWA Operations Engineer

AFNWA is a groundbreaking idea that is now a reality in both the figurative and literal sense. One could describe Tiannie Paul similarly; she is the first Mi'kmaw woman to graduate from Cape Breton University's Engineering Diploma program in November 2018 and went on to earn an engineering degree from Dalhousie in June 2021. She wears her iron ring with pride.

When asked about her reaction to being recruited by AFNWA in her senior year, Tiannie shared, "I would say it was a massive honor and a push for me to excel in my coursework. It also made me realize that my experiences as a First Nations female engineer were valuable to the AFNWA, and it motivated me to get through the final—and most challenging—parts of my degree."

Through our work with Dalhousie University and Dr. Graham Gagnon, we met Tiannie in her senior year and knew that she was meant to be part of AFNWA's journey.

Born and raised in Eskasoni, in Unama'ki, Tiannie is currently working part-time and will join AFNWA full-time as the Operations Engineer. Tiannie is also an up-and-coming artisan, and cites her baby sister, Piper, as her greatest inspiration. "I will strive to take my knowledge gained through my undergraduate, research and personal experiences as a First Nations female engineer to help provide safe clean water and wastewater services to all participating AFNWA communities."



“**Mi'klukwe Mkite'tmsi aqq Kksalsi.**” Translated from Mi'kmaw to English, it says to, **“Work hard, believe in yourself, and love yourself.”**

– AFNWA Operations Engineer, Tiannie Paul's advice to Indigenous youth.



We recently added new signage to our headquarters in Millbrook, so we are very easy to find when you visit us!

STAYING CONNECTED

For more information, please contact:

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Find us on [LinkedIn](#) and our [website](#)

