



FALL 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 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

We are pleased to announce the opening of our second office located at 6 Louise Street in Truro, NS! As our team continued to grow this year, we soon ran out of space at 13 Treaty Trail in Millbrook, which will remain our HQ until we build a custom purpose building in 2023. These offices will house the Engineering Communications and Outreach, Corporate Services, and Operations departments.



We congratulate Mohamed Osman on earning his Professional Engineer designation in July! In Canada, the professional engineer (P.Eng.) designation represents the highest standards of engineering knowledge, experience, and professionalism. Originally the Asset Management Technologist, Mohamed was promoted to Project Engineer following a recent open competition.

Join us in welcoming new staff members to our growing team: Oriana Galfi, Financial Controller; Mark Geck, Safety & Security Coordinator; Lauren Mills, Communications Associate; John Vandenberg, Regulatory Compliance Coordinator; Gary West, Superintendent of Operations; and Jeff Wujick, Superintendent of Technical Services.

Upholding our commitment to building community capacity and upgrading worker skills, several workshops were held over the summer. With COVID-19 restrictions eased, AFNWA was able to host in-person workshops that had many community-based water monitors (CBWM) and operators in attendance. CBWMs met in Millbrook on July 26 and September 28 for gas detection equipment training. Operators' workshops were held on July 27 in Millbrook and October 6 in Moncton. We have also added the Operators' Corner to our website.

Methilda Knockwood-Snache was appointed by her peers to be Chair of the Elders Advisory Lodge. In her role as EAL Chair, Methilda will join the Board in bi-monthly meetings, upholding AFNWA's dedication to Two-Eyed Seeing.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Trevor Martin, IT Coordinator

Growing up in Listugui Mi'qmaq First Nation in Quebec, Trevor was a huge gamer which piqued his interest in the technical aspects of how computers work. By his early teens, he was engaging in programming and scripting for different platforms.

Trevor's passion for working in both the hardware and software arenas of the computer industry motivated him to attend CompuCollege School of Business (now Eastern College) in Fredericton, NB where he earned a diploma as an Information Systems Specialist. This laid the groundwork for him to acquire multiple Microsoft certifications.

As the IT Coordinator for AFNWA, Trevor provides technical support, staff member training, drafting and implementing IT policies, procuring hardware and software, as well as configuring and maintaining the head office networks.

When asked about his goals in this role, Trevor shared, "One of the many issues we find throughout our communities is the lack of IT representation. I'm hoping to engage with communities that will become part of the AFNWA to provide advice or ideas to assist with tackling their IT problems if they lack general support."

Prior to joining the AFNWA, Trevor worked for the Listugui Mi'qmaq Government, where, through advocacy and educational endeavours, he encouraged youth in his community to consider information technology as a serious career option. He looks



forward to having the same impact through his relationships with youth in communities that the AFNWA will be affiliated with.

Trevor offers this advice to Indigenous youth looking to start a career in the IT field: "Everything we do in our modern lives involves technology. Career opportunities are limitless in this field. Mobile development isn't going anywhere, profound knowledge and interest in mobile coding, scripting, or programming, in general, is always in need, and I think this is something our youth should be channeling some interest in."

Besides gaming, during his leisure time, Trevor enjoys playing hockey and taking his family rockhounding along Nova Scotia's numerous beautiful beaches.



“A ‘near miss’ is a safety deficit. Report it. Correct it.”

– Carl Yates, Interim CEO, AFNWA

This quote about safety was captured at AFNWA's first weekly meeting on workplace safety, hosted by Carl Yates, CEO, and Mark Geck, Safety and Security Coordinator.



COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Lauren Mills is our new Communications Associate! She joins us from Halifax, NS, where she resides with her dog, Huey, and is a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University's Bachelor of Public Relations program.

The recipient of the very first Nujot'mu'k Samuqwan Award is NSCC student Merina Sark of Paqtnkek. Merina's story was shared in NSCC's fall newsletter that can be found on its [website](#). We will have an update on the NBCC Danny Lanteigne Memorial Award in the future!

AFNWA records another milestone with the production of its first annual report! With help from NATIONAL Public Relations, who oversaw the style and format of the publication, the annual report was approved by the Board in October and is now available on our website at www.afnwa.ca.

The pow wow trail returned this summer, and AFNWA was fortunate to have presence in Lennox Island, PEI, and Eskasoni, NS. Some events and pow wows were cancelled due to a rise in COVID-19 cases, but we look forward to meeting community members next year in person. Over the winter months, we look forward to connecting with our communities virtually. We were also fortunate to attend the Pat Marr Memorial Labour Day Tournament in Sipeknek'atik in September, the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Millbrook, and Mi'kmaq Treaty Day events in October.

In July, AFNWA supported the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC) water symposium to raise awareness of the importance of regulations, especially with our youth. A second virtual gathering took place on November 23.

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