



SUMMER 2022

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, Wabanaki Nations 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.

PROGRESS UPDATE

The Atlantic First Nations Water Authority is honoured to share the news that two more communities have confirmed their desire to explore membership in AFNWA and to participate in our Asset Management Plans [AMP]. We welcome **Wagmatcook** and **We'koqma'q** to the AFNWA journey, and look forward to working in the communities as we move towards full operations. All five Unama'ki bands are now AFNWA AMP participants!

In May, our team was delighted to be recognized at the **Canadian Network of Asset Managers Tereo Awards**. John Lam, Manager of Engineering, accepted the **Innovator Award** for AFNWA, which is awarded to "an organization successfully developing and implementing Asset Management approaches to effect business improvement."



The Operations and Engineering Department are working with the Dalhousie Centre for Water Resource Studies [CWRS] on our **water sampling program** that will see the team visit several Wabanaki communities over the next several months. Starting in June with Glooscap First Nation, the joint project involves acquiring multiple water samples on a quarterly basis in several Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities.

AFNWA and CWRS were also highlighted at the International Water Association's **Water Safety Conference 2022** recently held in Narvik, Norway. Tiannie Paul, Operations Engineer, and Megan Fuller, Dalhousie University, offered a visual presentation on **Two-Eyed Seeing: Development of One Water Safety Plans**.

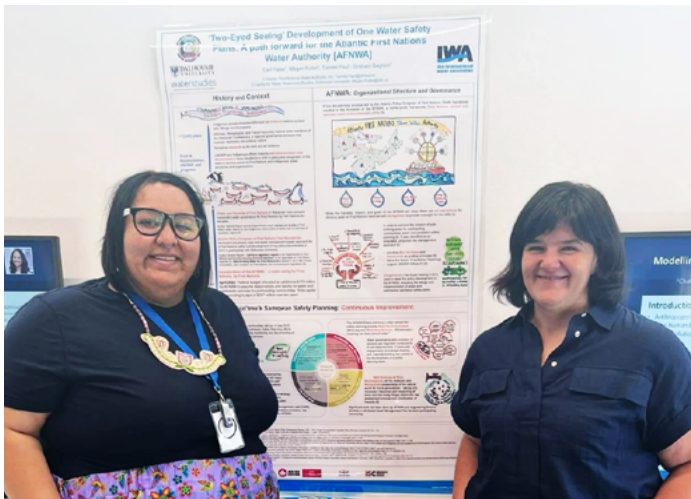


Photo credit: Megan Fuller

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Verna Langley, HR Generalist

As AFNWA Human Resources Generalist, Verna is responsible for a broad spectrum of HR activities with a recent focus on recruitment over the spring and summer. She has been busy writing and distributing job postings, coordinating and conducting interviews, and directing orientation with new employees. Verna also writes and develops HR policies, is a member of the Social and Personnel Committees, and coordinates all employee training. Before joining AFNWA in June 2021, Verna worked at Pictou Landing First Nation's band office in a similar position.

"AFNWA is a wonderful organization to work for," she shared, adding, "All employees are here for the same reasons and truly care about the drinking water and wastewater, and the water Operators in all First Nations communities."



Verna is Mi'kmaq, has been married for 24 years, and has five children, four grandchildren, and a variety of pets. Beading and sewing are her personal passion. Verna's goal in this role is to ensure that First Nations are a top priority when it comes to hiring new staff and policy development.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

The Mi'kma'ki Water Walk began in May and made its way through Truro in June. Through our Social Committee, AFNWA was able to donate to aid walkers with supplies and a cash donation. Chantal Leblanc, Manager of Corporate Services, spent a sunny and spiritual afternoon with the Grandmothers, an experience she describes as "unforgettable." The Social Committee also supported an initiative to send aid to Ukraine.

On June 27, we enjoyed a great conversation with Bitu Malekian and Aditya Chaudhuri from [The Water Movement](#). It was our pleasure to host and share ideas for future collaborations and how we can inspire Indigenous youth to pursue passions in water and wastewater services. The Water Movement works to bridge connections between Indigenous water operators and provide a collaborative online space where they can connect, share lessons learned, and access a video library.



The AFNWA was invited to the [Paqtneke Career Fair](#) on June 28 and our booth was busy from start to finish. Lauren Mills and Adam Gould answered questions from intrigued students, elected councillors, band staff, and even other exhibitors. The opportunity also allowed us to share QR codes for instant access to our social media apps.

Following our successful sponsorships in the spring, our team looks forward to supporting more events over the summer. In July, Potlotek hosted the [Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Summer Games](#) with support from AFNWA as Ti'am Sponsor. We are also a Premier Sponsor of the [#JStrong Golf Tournament](#) in Acadia First Nation, which honours the memory of the late Jadon Robinson. For the third year in a row, the AFNWA is sponsoring the Tobique [Neqotuk] Labour Day Festival.

The [PowWow Trail](#) is nearing its halfway mark with many gatherings scheduled for August and September. Our team has been fortunate to be part of the ceremonies in Pictou Landing, Abegweit, St. Mary's, Eskasoni, Sipekne'katik, Neqotuk, and Potlotek to date. If you catch any of these events in the future, drop by the AFNWA booth, meet our staff, ask questions, and take home some swag!



NBCC has identified a successful candidate for the [Danny Lanteigne Memorial Scholarship](#). Jayden Dedam, a graduate of Miramichi Valley High, enters the Business Administration: Management program at the Moncton campus this September.




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