

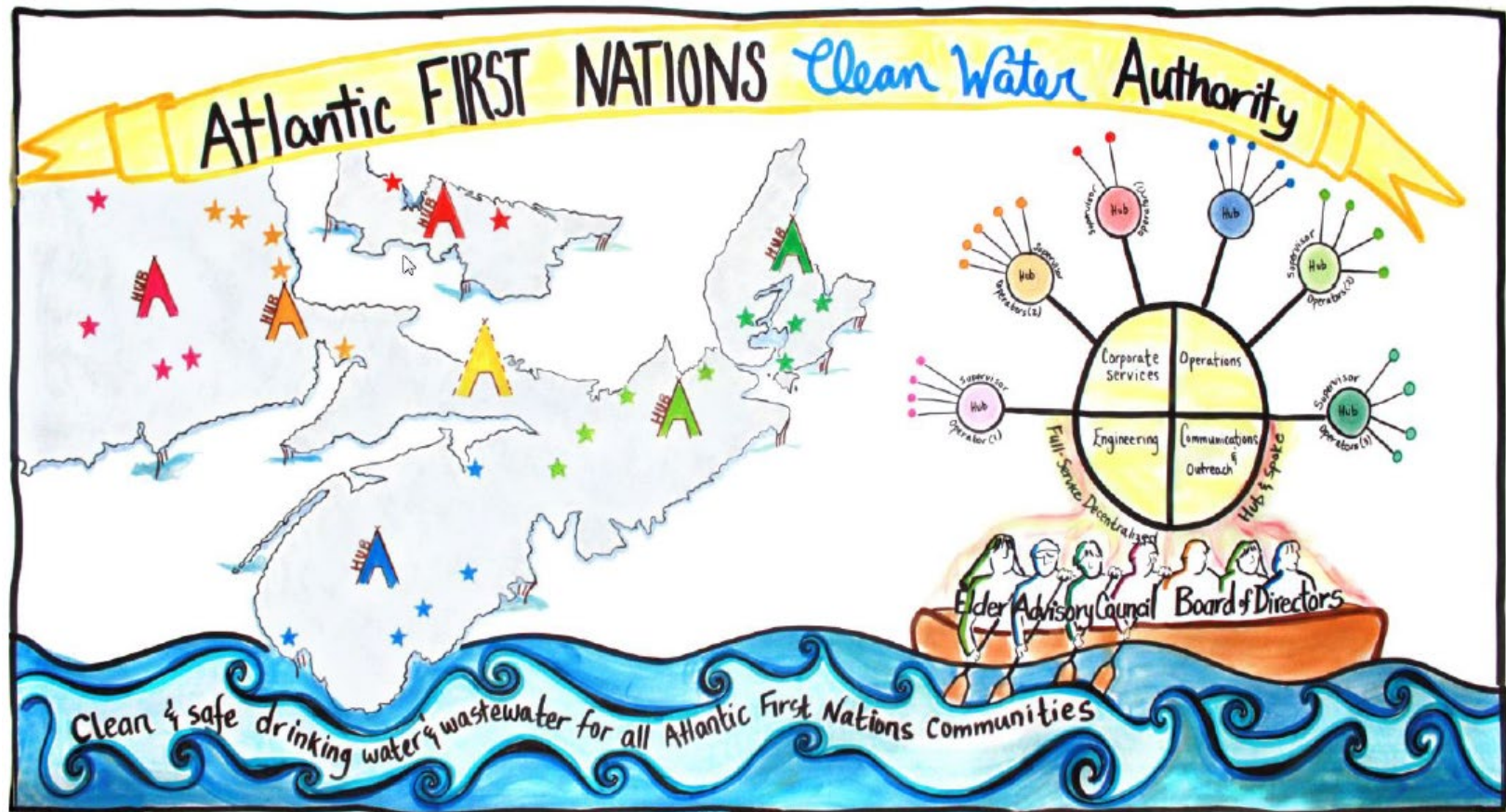
**ISC Interim Support, Atlantic
First Nations Water Authority
Operators, Workshop
May 11-12, 2023**



MISSION -- AFNWA

To provide safe, clean drinking water and wastewater in all participating First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada, delivered by a regional water authority owned and operated by First Nations.

Service approach that is accountable, equitable and based on *Two-Eyed Seeing*



Participating Communities

New Brunswick

Elsipogtog

Esgenoôpetitj

Kingsclear

Oromocto [MTSA]

St. Marys [MTSA]

Noqotkuk(Tobique)

Prince Edward Island

Abegweit

Lennox Island

Nova Scotia

Acadia [MTSA]

Eskasoni

Glooscap [MTSA]

Membertou [MTSA]

Millbrook [MTSA]

Paqtnkek

Pictou Landing

Potlotek

Sipekne'katik

Wagmatcook

We'koqma'q

Highlighted communities have signed agreements with AFNWA
Effective April 01, 2023

Why ISC Interim Support

- There are currently no regulations covering drinking water quality in First Nations on reserve and no regulating body empowered to provide oversight.
- Until federal regulations can be enacted, the Water Authority is seeking an interim oversight that is equivalent to one that oversees a municipal utility.
- The Water Authority, ISC and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) worked jointly to identify an interim oversight model based on the provincial regulatory structure currently in force off reserve in Nova Scotia.
- The AFNWA worked with the Centre for Water Resource Studies, Dalhousie University in consultation with working-level provincial officials for NSECC to develop a list of regulatory elements/services. This has resulted in AFNWA's Drinking Water Regulatory Guidance and Compliance Standards Document (DWRGCS).

ISC Interim Support Model

- **Discussions** —, Centre for Water Resource Studies, Dalhousie University; Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC), ISC (region/HQ)
- **AFNWA Letter** – Request for Interim Support
- **Model Approved** by ISC SADM and NSECC: January 2023
 - ISC FNIHB lead with NSECC
 - ISC employees on Interchange
 - Intent – ISC Interchange employees devolved to First Nation regulatory authority once established
 - ***Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – HR approved***
- ISC (FNIHB) and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) working jointly to support AFNWA
- **Human Resources Costing**
 - ISC staff (4) – Internal x 1; Interchange x 3, (water specialist & Adm)
 - NSECC – Management (0.5 FTE); Hydrogeologist (0.5FTE)

ISC Interim Oversight Support

- ISC point of contact for AFNWA - to review and advise on conformance to the Drinking Water Regulatory Guidance and Compliance Standards (DWRGCS), including receiving submissions and inquiries, coordinating meetings and site visits to First Nations Communities.
- Responding in a timely manner (same day, including after hours if needed) to drinking water quality exceedances, as well as requests for assistance to address emergency events impacting water quality (i.e., interruptions to water the water treatment/distribution systems).
- Providing interpretation, advice and guidance on drinking water quality test results including recommendations to initiate drinking water advisories and corrective measures.
- Observing in-person the functioning of AFNWA drinking systems biennially (every 2 years) and preparing and submitting a report with recommendations on conformance to the DWRGCS.

ISC Interim Oversight Support

- Providing review and advice on the following submissions:
 - GUDI Assessment/Assignment of National Filtration Log Credit,
 - DW Facility Classification,
 - Annual Sampling Plan/Changes to Sampling Plans,
 - System Compliance Documents (“Approval to Operate”),
 - System Upgrades/New Construction Treatment Plants/Transmission Mains, Reservoirs, excludes distribution systems, and
 - Annual reports.

ISC Interim Support Model

- **SADM Decision Note to Fund** (in progress)
 - Fund human resources requirements
 - Review ISC region, national – executive level

- **MOA: ISC & NSECC** – (in progress)
 - ISC review (region, national, legal); NSECC review
 - Anticipate 3 years with possible extension
 - Interchange – ISC employees
 - Service standards to support AFNWA
 - ISC Interchange staff transferred to First Nation regulatory body when established

- **ISC HR Staffing** – (in progress)
 - Four positions – Sr EPHO; EPHO x2 ; Adm Coord
 - Classification Review organization structure & work descriptions to create positions
 - Staffing – Statement of Merit Criteria; Job Poster, Interviews
 - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Staff Assignment to NSECC
 - Anticipate completion September 2023

Ongoing Joint Work- AFNWA, ISC, NSECC

- Addressing water quality issues in communities – AFNWA, ISC
- Developing Contact List – AFNWA, ISC EPH
- Reviewing Sampling Requirements – routine, quarterly, annually, 5 year – AFNWA, ISC EPH
- Monthly meetings – AFNWA, ISC, NSECC
- Quarterly meeting AFNWA/FNIHB EPHOs
- Staffing ISC positions

QUESTIONS ???

