



Atlantic First Nations Water Authority Inc.

13 Treaty Trail
Millbrook, NS
B6L 1W1
www.afnwa.ca

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/afnwa_inc): @afnwa_inc
[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/afnwa_inc): @afnwa_inc
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AFNWAinc): AFNWAinc
[LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/afnwa)

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, December 11, 2023

For immediate release:

AFNWA supports Canada's new 'First Nations drinking water and wastewater' legislation

Millbrook, NS – AFNWA Board Chair, Chief Wilbert Marshall of Potlotek, was in attendance in the House of Commons as the federal government announced new safe water and wastewater legislation for First Nations. Afterwards, he stood with Indigenous Services Canada Minister Patty Hajdu and provided comments of support regarding its introduction:

“While there is still work to do, the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority is supportive of the introduction of this legislation and truly believes it is a step in the right direction and a unique opportunity for First Nations self-governance of a service critical to the social, economic and environmental well-being of our communities.”

Currently, water on reserve lands is not subject to provincial regulatory and enforcement regimes. The newly proposed legislation will allow for First Nations develop regulatory standards. This approach is complementary to the approach the AFNWA has already developed.

“AFNWA has created its own regulatory standards to guide operations ahead of the legislative framework to formalize them. The work was completed in recognition that the Indigenous-owned utility must operate to the highest standards in the land to provide the best quality of water to its people and return the highest quality effluent back to the environment. The authority is encouraged to see standards embedded in the legislation so First Nations across Canada will have a legislated standard to rely on.” – Chief Wilbert Marshall

With the bill introduced, the AFNWA looks forward to providing additional input to help refine the legislation to ensure it works for First Nations across Canada.

CONTACT

James MacKinnon,
Director of Engagement & Government Relations
James.MacKinnon@afnwa.ca

About AFNWA

The Atlantic First Nations Water Authority is a not-for-profit water and wastewater utility that is owned and operated by First Nations, for First Nations. Its goal is to provide clean and safe drinking water and wastewater services, and is responsible for the operations, maintenance, and upgrade of all water and wastewater assets in its member communities.