



FALL 2023

# 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, 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 is 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

» **Board report:** AFNWA congratulates Pictou Landing Chief, Andrea Paul on her election as Regional Chief for Nova Scotia with the Assembly of First Nations. Regional Chief Andrea remains on our board of directors in the new role.



Tuma Young

We also welcome Tuma Young, K.C., who also shares knowledge and teachings as facilitator of our Elders Advisory Lodge. At our Annual General Meeting, Chiefs Wilbert Marshall, Chief Ross Perley and Chief Terry Paul were reelected for second terms on the board. The Board of Directors also reelected Chief Wilbert Marshall and Chief Ross Perley as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

» **CBWMs + Operators Training:** Our annual training was held on November 21-23, with Community Based Water Monitors (CBWM) and Operators from across the Atlantic Region taking part. We congratulate the CBWMs who received certificates of recognition for completing 100% of their sampling over the past year. Certificates were presented to: Blade Sylliboy, Brett Googoo, Brian Polchies, Brittney Green, Chris Pictou, Dale Ward, Darlene Augustine, Darlene Bachiri, Jason Moulton, Johnny Paul, Katrina Paul, Lorraine Marshall, Mark Francis, Mitchell Toney, Nick Sacobie, Patrick Jeddore, Peter MacLeod, Rex Drew, Ryan Traugh, Simon Paul, Stephen Knockwood, and Travis Dymont. Photos are on our [Facebook page!](#)

» **New team members:** Join us in welcoming to the team Dillon Francis, Bilijk Operator; Terrie Blackburn, Administrative Assistant with Communications and Engagement; Shannon Cousens, Executive Administrator to the CEO; and Javenny Francis as Junior Safety Coordinator.

» **Elders Advisory Lodge:** The EAL held its first in-person meeting in Truro this past October. We look forward to more in-person meetings in the future!



Charles Doucette, Kenneth Francis, Tuma Young, Methilda Knockwood-Snache, James MacKinnon, and Gail Tupper.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Jeff Wujcik, Superintendent of Technical Services



One of several homegrown Capers on staff, Jeff joined the AFNWA team in September 2021 as Superintendent of Technical Services. He manages the technical services team which includes two Technical Services Technologists, with his schedule taking him to communities across the entire

region on any given day. Jeff and his team are responsible for the installation and maintenance of all electrical, instrumentation and programming of our water and wastewater assets.

Following graduation from NSCC in 2011, Jeff spent a year working in Alberta before returning to complete his Red Seal in Instrumentation and Controls. Alberta called again and Jeff was on his way to Fort McMurray, becoming an Instrumentation Supervisor in 2013. There, Jeff was part of various projects over the next five years primarily focused on Instrumentation and Electrical

construction and commissioning in the Oil and Gas industry. In 2018 Jeff accepted a position as the Instrumentation, Electrical and Programming Superintendent with Rosneft Oil Company in Kurdistan, Iraq.

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic would ground most international travel, so Jeff would again reprise his Instrumentation Supervisor role in Fort McMurray. A year later, AFNWA sought candidates to fill two superintendent positions, presenting an opportunity to be much closer to home and family. We are fortunate and grateful to have Jeff on our team as the Superintendent of Technical Services as he contributed to development of the AFNWA Operations Department. He is currently pursuing his electrical apprenticeship with AFNWA support, and has his 4th class power engineering.

At home in Unama'ki he is a local volunteer firefighter, and enjoys woodworking as a hobby, or time out on a golf course. He and wife Jessica are parents to son, Cole, and are expecting a daughter in May 2024.

## COMMUNICATIONS + OUTREACH

» **2022-23 Annual Report:** Produced with help from NATIONAL Public Relations, our annual report is now available on our website. Printed copies will be distributed to all stakeholders, with copies available to community members upon request.

» **Blanket Exercise:** Led by Indigevisor, our office staff came together in October for a powerful learning experience on Indigenous history. We shared stories, smiles, and tears with each other while gaining valuable awareness on centuries of Indigenous history in Canada. AFNWA thanks our friends at Indigevisor: Nadine Bernard, Ashley Stevens, and Elder Joe Francis.



» **Signage:** Working with Operations and local businesses, several offices display the AFNWA logo on community infrastructures with more coming! Signage is now featured in Lennox Island, Potlotek, and Neqotkuk!

» **Sponsorships:** Fall was a bustling quarter for sponsorship requests. AFNWA was pleased to support events across the region including Neqotkuk Labour Day Festival, 14th Annual MCPEI Charity Golf Tournament, Prismatic's production of *Pisuwini: The Wolastoqiyik Story*, and several recreation programs in Unama'ki.

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