



WINTER 2024

# 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 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

» **First year in service:** AFNWA marked its one year anniversary in full operation as our first communities, Lennox Island and Neqotkuk, confirmed their membership on March 1, 2023. At that time, four community water operators joined our staff. The AFNWA looks forward to many years of high quality service delivery in all of our member communities!

» **Bill C-61:** Chief Wilbert Marshall, AFNWA Board Chair, joined Minister Patty Hajdu to support the introduction of Bill C-61 in December. Bill C-61 is an act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands.



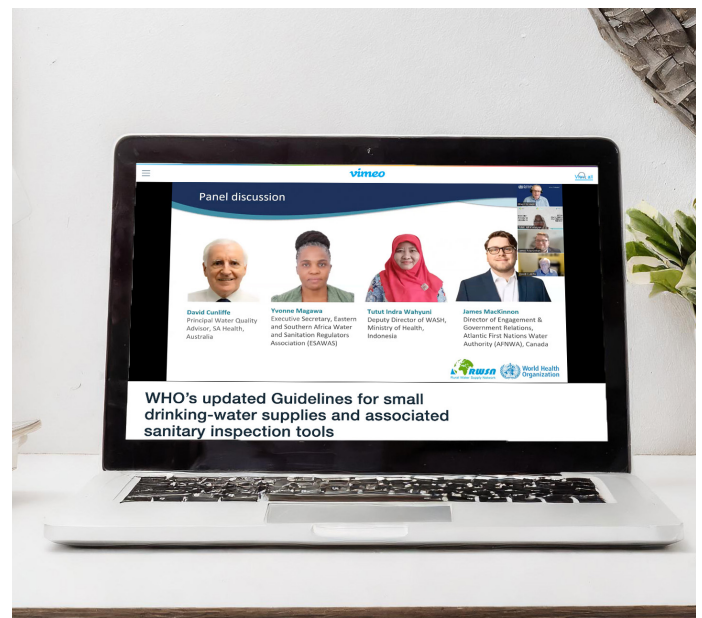
» **Operator training:** As part of our commitment to building Indigenous capacity in communities, our operators gathered for a quarterly operators' workshop in February. In March, the team members met again in preparation of their Level 1 Water Treatment exams this March. We are all rooting for you, team!



Quarterly operators workshop.

» **Employment:** Our team continues growing with three (3) positions available: Director of Operations Engineering, and Compliance; Utility Technologist – Instrumentation & Controls/Industrial Electrician; and Vacuum/Jet Rodder Combination Unit Truck Operator (6- to 9-month term). Full job descriptions are found on our website.

» **WHO panel:** James MacKinnon, Director of Engagement & Government Relations, was a recent panelist in a discussion hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO). Joined by peers from around the world, James discussed the importance of regulations to delivering safe, clean drinking water.



James MacKinnon featured on a panel discussion with the World Health Organization (WHO).

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Adam Gould, Manager of Communications and Outreach



A member of the Mi'kmaq Nation from Membertou, NS, with roots across Mi'kma'ki, Adam is one of the AFNWA "Original Six" senior managers, recruited in 2020 as part of the transition to full operations. As Manager of Communications and Outreach, Adam plays a diverse and strategic role in the growing utility.

Not-for-profit PR is Adam's niche, having worked with tribal councils, First Nations bands, and all levels of government for over 15 years. Before his career began, Adam graduated from University College of Cape Breton (now Cape Breton University) with a BA,

followed by a BPR from Mount Saint Vincent University. Adam then decided to pursue a career in communications and enrolled full-time at Royal Roads University as the first Mi'kmaq in the Master of Arts in International and Intercultural Communications (MAIIC) program.

At 18, Adam was given the spiritual name "Strong Standing Giant" and had the gift of leadership. His warrior animal is the black buffalo and his protector animal is the red fox.

When not at work, Adam's duties as a single fur-dad takeover, caring for his beloved 19-year-old fur baby Cleo! If there is any free time in between both jobs he enjoys the art of house music and deejaying, cheering for sports entertainers and combat personalities. Through his AFNWA role, Adam is reconnecting more with his Mi'kmaq roots by participating at traditional gathering events, visiting communities for the very first time, and building friendships when sharing the AFNWA story.

## COMMUNICATIONS + OUTREACH

» **Social media:** If you follow our Facebook page, you have seen our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) campaign. In February, we began a weekly program highlighting some of the important questions we are asked by residents and allies. The campaign will continue into spring with general questions about AFNWA and our governance structure. Stay tuned to our social media pages for more campaigns in the future!

» **Outreach:** Winter months usually put a pause on Indigenous events, but we take advantage of any opportunity to meet new faces and share our story. Our team travelled to Moncton for NBCC's career fair for business, engineering, and IT students where we promoted our academic bursary. Later in the month, the inaugural Kojua Gathering was held in Millbrook where AFNWA winter hats and t-shirts were very popular with dancers and guests.

» **Annual Report:** The 2022-23 edition is published for download from our website at [www.afnwa.ca/documents-library](http://www.afnwa.ca/documents-library). The report highlights our first year of service delivery in Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities.



## FOLLOW AFNWA ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

