

Drinking Water on First Nations in Atlantic Region ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Community Based Water Monitor Workshop
November 16-17, 2016
Waterfront Campus, NSCC, Dartmouth NS



General

- Responsibility for ensuring safe drinking water in First Nation communities is shared between the First Nations and Government of Canada.
- First Nations Chief and Council take the lead on planning and developing their own capital facilities as well as the day to day operation of the facility.
- Health Canada works with First Nations communities to protect public health by ensuring verification monitoring programs are in place to provide a final check on the overall safety of drinking water:
 - Public Water Supplies (PWS)
 - Semi-public water supplies (SPWS - IE a well serving a public building)
 - Private wells (IE a home using its own well)

General

- EHO's work collaboratively with First Nation to build capacity at the community level to monitor drinking water quality by liaising, communicating and working collaboratively with First Nation leadership and the municipal, provincial and federal governments to establish integrated emergency response planning for First Nations communities for drinking water

The Stakeholders

- Chief and Council
- First Nation Department Responsible for Water / Wastewater or Public Works
- Community Based Water Monitor
- Environmental Health Officer
- INAC
- Tribal Organization (i.e. CRTP)

Chief and Council

- Designating the CBWM
- Ensuring the CBWM receives training
- Initiate recommendations from EHO on drinking water quality issues
- Ensure that an Emergency Response Plan is in place to deal with drinking water emergencies

Environmental Health Officer

- Participating in the planning, developing, implementation and evaluation of the drinking water program
- Monitor drinking water quality to assess compliance with Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ)
- Interpret drinking water results for the community, provide advice / recommendations to the community in the event of unsatisfactory test results (ie. DWA, BWA)
- Participate in planning and responding to emergencies related to the contamination on community supplies
- Participate in investigations of water borne disease outbreaks

EHO cont..

- Assist with the CBWM responsibilities for sampling and testing
- Maintaining quality assurance and quality control
- Liaising and communicating with FN leadership, municipalities and provincial and federal governments
- Advocating for clean safe and reliable drinking water in the community
- Work in partnership with CBWM to resolve issues / gaps identified during third party audit evaluations

Community Based Water Monitor

- Sampling and testing the quality of drinking water in distribution systems as detailed in the sampling procedures developed in collaboration with the EHO, as per the GCDWQ
- Record Keeping: Ensure all applicable fields in the CBWM Logbook are completed with accurate information
- Collect and Send samples for bacteria analysis to an accredited lab following established SOPs
- Review WaterTrax to ensure results reflect work that has been completed
- Ensure CBWM log book is maintained / updated and stored in a readily accessible area

CBWM Cont..

- Receive and review lab results
- Immediately report adverse lab results (total coliforms or *E. coli* present / >1) to the EHO for interpretation of the results and further action. Follow up actions when required
- Immediately report inconsistent / inadequate Chlorine residuals to EHO so that the operator can be notified and follow up action taken
- Meeting regularly throughout the year, as required, with Chief and Council, the EHO, the Health Director to report on water sampling results

CBWM Cont..

- Developing a sampling procedure in consultation with the EHO (i.e. # of samples, sampling locations, sampling method, communications strategy)
- Ordering supplies from Health Canada as required
- Work with the EHO to resolve any areas and gaps identified during third party audit evaluations

Environmental Public Health Division of HC

- Provide public health advice and recommendations for communicable disease control
- Providing public health advice and recommendations on environmental public health issues for the communities
- Overseeing health surveillance activities

QUESTIONS...