



Atlantic First Nations Water Authority Inc.

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Atlantic First Nations Water Authority [AFNWA] reacts to 2022 federal budget
Indigenous Services Canada provided with additional \$173 million over 10 years for service transfer in AFNWA communities.

[Millbrook, NS] When AFNWA was invited by Indigenous Services Canada [ISC] in December 2021 to submit its 10-year capital and operations budget request, its senior management team dug deep to meet the deadline and then could only wait until today's announcement. Budget 2022 proposes to provide ISC with an additional \$173.2 million over 10 years, and starting in 2022-23, to support the transfer of water and wastewater services in 17 First Nations communities to AFNWA.

Chief Wilbert Marshall of Potlotek, Chair of the AFNWA Board of Directors, shared, "We were optimistic about the budget submission but did not want to get ahead of ourselves leading up to the announcement. As Chief of a community that faced problems with its water for many years, today's announcement is a huge step in the right direction."

With today's funding announcement, AFNWA now plans to engage with its current participating communities and respective Chiefs and Councils over the coming months to ensure a full understanding. The AFNWA also has the door wide open for more First Nations communities to seek membership and will be conducting further assessments this year to that end. A committed outreach program will also see the utility build a presence across Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik nations in the coming months.

"This is great news for AFNWA, for the communities we serve, and for all First Nations communities in the Wabanaki territory within Atlantic Canada," exclaimed Carl Yates, AFNWA Interim CEO, adding "While we have reached many milestones in our first two years of transitioning towards full operations, we are pleased to continue the journey to ready ourselves for service this fall."

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

For more information on AFNWA, visit the website at www.afnwa.ca and join us in our journey on social media apps [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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