



WATER FIRST

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2009, Water First Education & Training Inc. is dedicated to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to resolve local water challenges through education, training and collaboration.

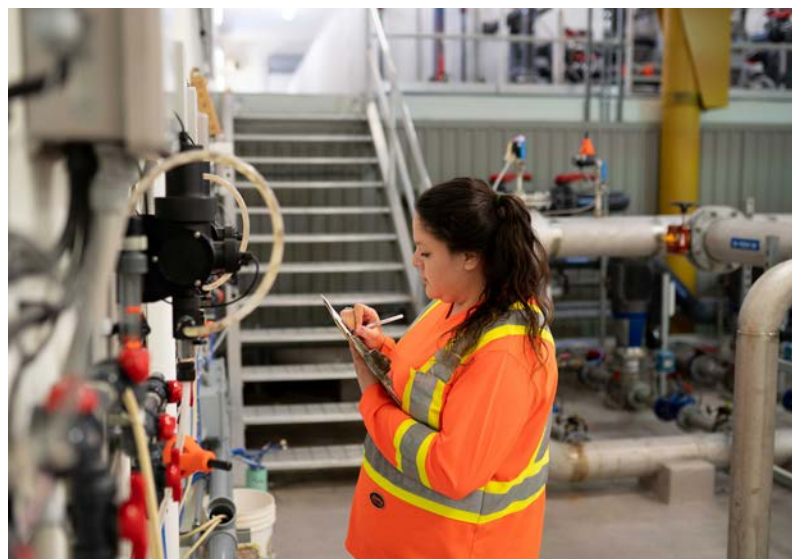
Water First has collaborated with over 40 Indigenous communities in Ontario, Québec, and Labrador on environmental and drinking water projects. By working together to hire and train locally, our programs ensure that skills, knowledge and credentials stay in communities long after a project is completed.



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

We collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop and deliver educational programming to::

- Train and certify Indigenous people as water operators and water quality analysts;
- Inspire youth to pursue careers in water science;
- Build skills related to monitoring and managing aquatic ecosystems.



WHAT WE DO

DRINKING WATER

The Water First Internship Program is a 15-month paid internship for young adults entering the field of water science. The internship offers participants customized skills training and tutoring to obtain certifications in drinking water treatment and environmental water quality monitoring. Graduated interns have gone into careers as treatment plant operators, environmental technicians or pursued further education. The Water First Internship program is a valuable training initiative focused on developing operational capacity locally. Water First continues to collaboratively adapt the program to best serve First Nation communities

ENVIRONMENTAL WATER

Our **Watershed Restoration** and **Fish Habitat Restoration** projects train and employ Indigenous community members to rehabilitate parts of traditional territories to reduce erosion, improve water quality, reduce runoff, and increase viable spawning habitat for traditionally harvested species. **Baseline Water Quality** and **Contaminant of Concern** studies provide communities with



water quality and contaminant information for their aquatic ecosystems. Importantly, by putting an emphasis on skills and implementation training, communities retain the ability to conduct further monitoring on their traditional territories.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Indigenous students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 participate in week-long workshops that promote knowledge, inspire an interest in the water sciences, and expose them to potential career paths in the water science industry. Students learn about water science through hands-on, inquiry-driven activities, and participate in land-based activities such as tree planting to improve the health of their communities' watersheds.

STRONG COMMUNITIES. SAFE, CLEAN WATER.

Water First acknowledges that our office lies within the traditional territory of the Petun and the Anishnaabeg, which consist of the Odawa, Ojibwe, and the Pottawatomi nations. The region in which we live and work has been a site of human activity for approximately 15,000 years, with Indigenous peoples being the sole inhabitants until as recently as 500 years ago.

Water First is located on the territory covered by Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty No. 18, of 1818.

Today, this area is still the home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work with the community in this territory.

**W A T E R
F I R S T**

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