



# OUR STORY

**One of the most fundamental challenges in Canada today is the lack of sustainable access to safe, clean water for Indigenous Peoples.**

“The only time people think about where their water comes from is when they can’t drink it. They don’t realize people are working 24 hours a day, testing daily, weekly, monthly to make sure the water is good.”

**Jamie Lee Pareneau, Water First Intern  
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation**



**Water First is Canada’s leading charity dedicated to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to address local water challenges through education, training and meaningful collaboration.**



To date, we have collaborated with over **80 Indigenous communities** across the country on environmental and drinking water projects, along with hands-on water science education with youth.

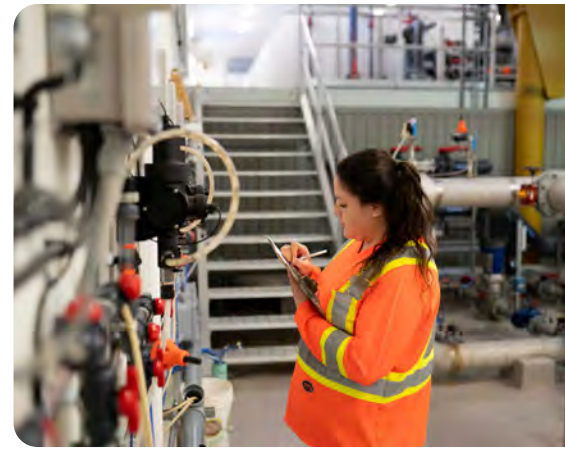
Our work is guided by the priorities and needs of Indigenous partner communities. Through collaboration, we are supporting sustainable access to clean water by focusing on **building trust, meaningful partnerships, and lasting results.**



## Drinking Water Internship Program

In many Indigenous communities across Canada, the tap water is not safe to drink. Although the federal government has committed to improving and expanding infrastructure, this alone does not provide clean and reliable drinking water. Communities have identified the need for more young, qualified, and local personnel to operate and maintain local water treatment plants.

The Water First Internship Program supports young Indigenous adults to become certified water treatment plant operators and helps ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water in Indigenous communities for the long term.



## Environmental Water Program

While working with many Indigenous communities, many have shared their vision of Indigenous-led land management – to manage and steward water resources for the long term. As a result, communities are seeking ways to strengthen their technical capacity to do so.

By understanding the environmental water goals and priority areas of each community, we help to determine local training opportunities. From this, we design custom project-based training programs related to fish habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, mapping, and data management. The program is then delivered with the community, for the community.

## Indigenous Schools Water Program

With the underrepresentation of Indigenous youth in water sciences in Canada and the water challenges faced by many communities, our programs offer Indigenous students impassioned, empowering, thorough and exciting water science education.

Our hands-on STEM based K-12 programs provide Indigenous youth with unique learning opportunities that take place in the classroom and on the land.



Founded in 2009, Water First addresses drinking water and environmental water challenges in Indigenous communities in Canada through education, training and meaningful collaboration.

For more information, contact Ami Gopal, Director of Development at [ami.gopal@waterfirst.ngo](mailto:ami.gopal@waterfirst.ngo) or 1-800-970-8467 ext. 106



Water First Education & Training Inc.  
10 Francis St. E., Creemore, ON L0M 1G0  
1-800-970-8467 | [info@waterfirst.ngo](mailto:info@waterfirst.ngo) | [www.waterfirst.ngo](http://www.waterfirst.ngo)  
Charitable Registration No: 83852 5269 RR0001



Follow us on social media:  
[@waterfirstngo](https://www.instagram.com/waterfirstngo)