



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

Happy New Year!

As we embrace the early days of 2024, we reflect on the growth and achievements of 2023, including expanding partnerships, team enhancement, and a deepened commitment to cultural growth and understanding – an important and ongoing learning journey that you can read more about below.

Perhaps most importantly, Water First’s growth this past year included you, our supporters, and your dedication to ensuring our work and engagement can continue, together.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and joyful winter, whether you’re embracing adventures or enjoying cozy rest.



The 2023 Annual Report is Available Now

We invite you to explore Water First’s 2023 annual report, *Lasting Relationships, Lasting Results*.



Scan the QR code or visit:
waterfirst.ngo/about-us/annual-report-2023/



The **Drinking Water Internships Program** continued its commitment to train Indigenous youth and young adults to become certified water treatment operators, in order to provide safe, clean drinking water for future generations.

This past year DWP celebrated:

- **11 Internship graduates**
- **19,800 collective hours** of Internship training
- **36** provincially-recognized certifications earned

The **Schools Water Program** engaged Indigenous students, from K-12, to showcase pathways to careers in aquatic science and drinking water sectors.

This past year SWP delivered:

- Programing that earned high school students **35 credits**
- Its **first-ever partnerships in western Canada**, with workshops in Northwest Territories (Délı̄nę First Nation), Alberta (Fort Chipewyan), and British Columbia (with Boston Bar First Nation and S w̱xwú7mesh Úxwumixw [Squamish Nation])
- **32 water science workshops**

The **Environmental Water Program** worked to recruit, support, and train Indigenous youth and adults to gain employment in water resource stewardship.

This past year EWP completed:

- The successful restoration of a **170m² walleye spawning habitat** with Sagamok Anishnawbek
- The delivery of **24 workshops**
- **1,221 hours** of in-field training



Women & Water

Friday, March 8, 2024 • 12:00 PM EST

Save the date for our next virtual event!

Join us as we celebrate **International Women's Day** with a lively panel discussion. You'll hear from Water First staff, community leaders, and program participants about the role women play in the water science field and as water protectors.

This is a free event. Hope to see you there!

To RSVP, scan the QR code or visit waterfirst.ngo/donor-event



An Ongoing Commitment to Collaboration

Water First's team consists of Indigenous and non-Indigenous personnel, working together with a dedicated Board of Directors and Indigenous Advisory Council members. Together, we strive to provide valuable, relevant programming that addresses community-identified needs.

Relationships and trust are at the foundation of our success and growth. Thank you to all the community members, donors, staff and champions we work alongside. It is through these partnerships that we co-create programs that lead to lasting results.

BECOME A Monthly Donor

Visit waterfirst.ngo/donate

Become a monthly donor and be part of the work we're doing to support the next generation of water scientists through 2024 and beyond!

Your monthly gift will help ensure safe, sustainable water solutions in Indigenous communities across Canada.

Important Upcoming Dates

February

- 2 World Wetlands Day
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science

March

- 3 World Wildlife Day
- 8 International Women's Day
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 21 Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- National Indigenous Water Operators Day
- 22 World Water Day

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



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