



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Welcome spring!

Spring is nature's season of return and renewal, and that's how it goes at Water First as well. From cheering on Manitoba's first Drinking Water Interns as they get closer to graduation, to looking ahead to the second half of the year, spring has us feeling as motivated as the flowers shooting up from the warming soil.

We hope that you're also looking forward to sunny days ahead, and we thank you for your continued support today and all year round.

Celebrating World Water Day

Thank you to everyone that joined us for our virtual event to celebrate World Water Day! The panel explored the theme of Safe Water Needs Skilled People and how training and education supports continued access to safe, clean water in Indigenous communities. Sharing professional insights and personal experiences, our host and panelists from the Water First family did a fantastic job of sharing their expertise, dedication, and passion for supporting the next generation of water scientists.

You can watch all the event highlights at waterfirst.ngo/spring-2025-virtual-event



Students at school in Xwemélch'stn explore watersheds through play with interactive models.

National recognition

John Millar, accompanied by Water First Indigenous Advisory Council member, Naomi Mandamin, accepted an award from Governor General Mary Simon.

Water First's Executive Director and Founder was given the award in a special ceremony at Rideau Hall in recognition of the work Water First does to address safe water challenges alongside Indigenous communities. Congratulations, John and Naomi!



Interns in the classroom

This school year, eight participants from the Drinking Water Internship and the Environmental Water Internship have had the opportunity to engage Indigenous students in classrooms across the country. This initiative with the School Water Program has been a great success – positive feedback from teachers about these integrated programs has never been higher!

Water First interns have been able to showcase the work they are doing, from leading students on tours of their water treatment plants, to guiding students through their monitoring sites, bringing their unique perspectives on water protection to the classroom. The interns have the opportunity to help introduce career pathways in water science, while having fun and inspiring young learners!



Get your spring merch now!

Wow! This past winter, Water First launched its online store, where supporters could pick up merchandise like a specially-designed hoodie and our famous blue hats – and the response has been amazing!

Our Spring Collection is now here, featuring beautiful limited-edition items crafted with purpose, comfort, and community at heart.

Thank you to everyone who has made a purchase so far, and as always, all proceeds from the sales of Water First merchandise go to support our training and education programming.

Support safe, clean water and look great while doing it!

[Visit shop.waterfirst.ngo](https://shop.waterfirst.ngo)



Leaving a legacy of hope and support

Generosity, compassion, humility: these are traits that make a difference for generations to come. Ottawa resident Betty Bergin was an example of these traits all her life. Feeling that it was important to continue to support charities that were meaningful to her, Betty included a generous gift to Water First in her will. Betty's gift will be used to continue our work to support Indigenous adults and youth in education and training.

“Legacy gifts make it possible for regular people to make a huge impact on a cause they feel passionately about,” says Jessica Rawn, Sr. Manager of Development at Water First. “This generous bequest

was a surprise to all of us! Years ago Betty wrote one line in her will that now makes such a difference. We take it seriously that she trusted us to do something positive for generations to come.”

Support Water First now and find out how you can become a legacy donor by contacting us today!



[Visit waterfirst.ngo/donate](https://waterfirst.ngo/donate)

Important Upcoming Dates

May

- 5** Red Dress Day (National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People)

June

- 1-30** National Indigenous History Month & Pride Month
- 6** Anishinaabe Day
- 19** World Refill Day/Day Without Plastic
- 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day

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

**W A T E R
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