

W A T E R

F I R S T





Mandate:

To address water challenges in Indigenous communities in Canada through education, training and meaningful collaboration.

Water First has partnered with over 60 Indigenous communities in Ontario, Quebec, Labrador & Manitoba on various water education and training projects.

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

**Environmental
Projects:**

**Baseline Water
Quality Studies**

**Fish Habitat
Restoration**

**Contaminants
Sampling**



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



**In-School Water
Education
Projects:**

**Curriculum-based
and designed in
collaboration with
Indigenous
educators**

**Hands-on and out
on the land
wherever possible**

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

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**DRINKING WATER
INTERNSHIP**

Internship Founding Partners:



**UNITED CHIEFS
AND COUNCILS OF
MNIDOO MNISING**



**WIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED
TERRITORY**



Anishinabek



Currently Partnered
With 10 First Nations
Affiliated with:



BIMOSE
TRIBAL COUNCIL



**Also Partnered With
8 First Nations
Affiliated with:**



**WAABNOONG BEMJIWANG
ASSOCIATION OF FIRST
NATIONS**





Purpose:

To support local recruitment of young Indigenous adults to the water field

To help participants obtain recognized water certifications

To help communities meet local demand for water operators

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Drinking Water
Internship:

**Tribal Council level,
6-10 communities**

**Mix of centralized
trainings and
hands-on experience
at a local plant**

**Recognized industry
certifications**

**Drinking water &
environmental water
concepts**



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Community Benefits & Results:

- Each intern is provided a full time, 15 month paid position (no previous experience required) at a local water plant
- Graduates achieve certifications such as Operator in Training (OIT) and Water Quality Analyst (WQA), in order to begin their careers in the drinking water field
- Strong retention and increased certified local water professionals
- Vast majority of participants find related work quickly; most at a local water plant
- Enhanced stewardship and sustainability of community drinking water systems

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Water First is a Registered Charity
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