



FAX COVER

FROM:

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Message :

We would like to thank all the communities who have faxed back their surveys; the response has provided some very clear indicators. For example, few communities are able to maintain chlorine residuals in their distribution systems and the survey results support the SDWF scientists' theory that few First Nation communities have water treatment systems which are capable of producing truly safe drinking water.

Many communities have requested our help to draft BCRs – today we share with you two versions of BCRs and we feel that all First Nations should implement one of them a.s.a.p.

As a result of the information we have shared with you, the Advanced Aboriginal Water Treatment Team (AAWTT) were invited to present to the gathering of Grand Chiefs in Ft. Chipewyan in late August, a gathering of over 400 Chiefs from across North America, which was simultaneously translated into four Aboriginal languages. From this presentation they were invited to present to the Ontario Chiefs gathering last week in Garden River, Ontario. Howard Cardinal is an Elder from Saddle Lake Cree Nation who is terminally ill and the week prior he was hospitalized and we were afraid he would not walk out of the hospital. When invited to Ontario Chiefs he rallied his spirits and presented alongside Tony! Tony and Howard received a standing ovation for their presentation – AND a pipe ceremony AND a water song sung in their honor and in appreciation of the knowledge they shared! Yesterday we learned they have been invited to present in NWT November 4th, 5th & 6th and to return to ON again later in

November. We are also pleased to tell you that AFN is now supporting their message and promoting their presentation.

We are making a difference – and we would not be in this position without your help, thanks so much for your support and guidance. Please remember:

“Decisions you make today will determine your Destiny!”

We encourage you to make a BCR to reject responsibility and liability for your community drinking water until such a time that your water treatment process can be guaranteed to consistently meet all parameters of the Canadian drinking water quality guidelines. If you would like electronic copies of these BCRs just e-mail info@safewater.org with your request. If you have already returned the survey please do not return it again, but we would like to receive responses from all First Nation communities across Canada.

The _____ Band wishes to participate in the _____
(insert province) Regional Drinking Water Safety Program providing this participation
guarantees our community that we will not be held liable for the quality of our drinking
water until such time that we can produce truly safe drinking water for our community.
The quality of our water needs to meet the full extent of the Canadian Drinking Water
Quality Guidelines as well as disease-causing microbe regulations enshrined in
regulations in the United States and Europe, which are expected to be adopted by
Canada as well. Raw water and treated water testing needs to be carried out regularly
to ensure that the implemented water treatment processes remain effective. Our
community will comply with the routine monitoring of our drinking water supplies on the
above conditions only. We will make a band worker available for this task who will work
with our Environmental Health Officer to collect and analyse water samples according to
an established work plan.

Band Council Resolution

We have in good faith trusted that the federal government has provided us with the tools and resources to produce safe drinking water it has now come to our attention that this is not the case.

Therefore, whereas the federal government has not provided water treatment processes allowing water treatment plant operators in our community the ability to produce safe drinking water, and

Whereas the federal government still has a “mandate” to correct the above.

Be it therefore resolved that:

_____ First Nation will not be held liable for the quality of our drinking water until such time that we can produce truly safe drinking water for our community. The quality of our water needs to meet the full extent of the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines as well as disease-causing microbe regulations enshrined in regulations in the United States and Europe, which are expected to be adopted by Canada as well. Raw water and treated water testing needs to be carried out regularly to ensure that the implemented water treatment processes remain effective.

It is our opinion that it is the federal government’s responsibility, as in our hereditary inherent right as a sovereign nation, to find practical and effective water treatment processes using sound science and engineering that can produce drinking water meeting the requirements we have stipulated above. Once such water treatment processes are implemented in our community and we have been provided with sufficient resources, we will be happy to assume responsibility for the safety of our distributed drinking water.

CALL TO ACTION FOR First Nations Drinking Water

Name of community: _____

I wish to remain anonymous Yes **or**

Contact person: _____

Water Treatment Plant Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

What time would be best to call the contact person ? _____

Position: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

1) Do you treat ground or surface water? _____

2) What treatment process do you use, can you describe it?

3) How much water do you treat per day? _____

4) Do you have support when problems arise? Yes or No please explain

5) Who do you answer to when there are problems? eg. a committee or Chief & Council

6) How many people do you service with water? _____

7) Do you have an adequate supply amount of water for your community? Yes or No

8) What are the total and free chlorine levels in your distributed water?

a) Does it vary within the same close range? _____

b) Free chlorine: _____

c) Total chlorine: _____

9) What are the chlorine residuals in the distribution system?

10) Have you had any boil water advisories? Yes or No

a) If yes why was it called? _____

b) How was it resolved? _____

c) How long did it last? _____

11) Do you measure turbidity? Yes or No

a) What are the average levels? _____

12) Do you drink your water? Yes or No

a) If so how does it taste? _____

b) Does it carry an odor? Explain if it does. _____

13) Does the raw water have any smell? _____

14) Do you have raw water data?

15) Do you have treated water data?

16) Are you willing to share some of the data with SDWF's Advanced Aboriginal Water Treatment Team (AAWTT)? _____

17) Do you want a scientist to have a look at the data and get back to you with his/her interpretation?
Circle Yes or No

18) Do you have any health concerns for your community when it comes to the water?

19) Is there anyone from outside the community that tests your water? Circle Yes or No
If so who? For example EHO, or water quality monitor.

Do you test your water on all the water quality parameters yearly? ie: iron, arsenic, etc.
Circle Yes or No

If so are you willing to share your results with SDWF's AAWTT?
Circle Yes or No

20) Do you know what your annual bill is for chemicals for your water treatment process
\$ _____

21) How long has it been since INAC allocated any funding to improve or replace your water treatment plant? Please Circle

Less than 5 years 5 – 10 years over 10 years

22) How much did INAC spend on your community water treatment? \$ _____

Any comments:

I have forwarded the information you have sent regarding First Nations Call to Action for Safe Drinking Water to our Chief and Council Yes or No