

When SDWF was founded in October 1997 we received many positive letters of support, as these samples below illustrate:

Health Canada, quote: *"Sustainable and cost effective solutions to these problems will provide health benefits to rural citizens in Canada and abroad"*.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, quote: *"We share this concern and receive regular requests for water quality assistance"*

Farm Credit Corporation, quote: *"We applaud SDWF's public education and research initiatives"*

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, quote: *"The commitment of the SDWF to this important issue, through research and public education, is to be commended. We look forward to all opportunities for partnership or mutual support in meeting our most similar goals"*.

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, quote: *"An organization such as SDWF that specifically targets the impacts of poor water quality on the health of rural people is needed. ...we look forward to working with you in the future"*.

Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural Network, quote: *"We applaud the work of the SDWF"*.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, quote: *"We urge you to support the continued existence of SDWF"*.

Saskatoon District Health, quote: *"Education of the public (especially individuals who rely on private water system) on adequate water treatment and the importance of consuming safe water is a common goal we share with the SDWF"*.

That was ten years ago! Today we can provide an impressive list of our achievements over the past ten years.

💧 Developed national education programs, which have been endorsed by Green Street as Environmental Education Programs of Excellence for five consecutive years. In the past school year we distributed over 700 Operation Water Drop kits to schools in all provinces, reaching over 20,000 students. To-date our education programs have been shared with over 100,000 students in all provinces in Canada and many states in USA! In the first two months of this school year we have committed more kits than we distributed the entire previous year! In addition we have:

- Introduced two new programs September 2007, Operation Water Pollution and Operation Water Health, to support the existing Operation Water Spirit and Operation Water Flow, and the original Operation Water Drop.
- Translated Operation Water Drop into French
- Translated Operation Water Spirit into Cree
- Translated Operation Water Health into Cree
- Translated Operation Water Pollution into French
- Developed Teacher and student resources to support all programs
- Initiated recognition program to identify teachers who support SDWF programs
- Begun development of a new program, Operation Water Biology
- Begun development of another new program, Operation Ground Water, in partnership with Alberta Research Council



Testing for arsenic using SDWF's
Operation Water Drop

- Built and maintained an active website at www.safewater.org that receives over 150,000 visitors each month
- Conducted research and development of integrated biological and reverse osmosis membrane (IBROM) water treatment techniques, which enables communities to produce superb water quality, surpassing Canadian drinking water quality guidelines as well as the more stringent U.S. and European drinking water quality regulations.

- The IBROM water treatment technology uses zero or minimal chemicals in the process, and is thereby the preferred environmental choice for water treatment. It has been implemented full-scale at Yellow Quill First Nation, Pasqua First Nation, and George Gordon First Nation. Successful pilots have been carried out at Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Alberta, Kawacatoose and Muskowekwan First Nations in Saskatchewan.



These chemicals will no longer be needed every month at Saddle Lake Cree Nation



Dr. Simon Kapaj analyzes water samples in laboratory for research project on Health Effects of Arsenic Poisoning

- Conducted research into various aspects of water treatment, now enabling SDWF to determine specifics of different source waters and most appropriate treatment techniques for ground water sources with 12 hour “in community” pilots.

- Formed an Advanced Aboriginal Water Treatment Team (AAWTT) and first trained 6 Water Keepers and we are currently training another 6 in water treatment techniques and related health issues so that they can better protect their own and other communities.

- Written many scientific peer reviewed publications such as “*Human health effects from chronic arsenic poisoning*”, “*Presence and removal of arsenic from rural water supplies in Canada*” and “*Rural drinking water and waterborne illness*”.

- Published many articles in provincial and national publications such as Municipal World, Aboriginal Times, ReNew Canada, Canadian Water Treatment etc.

- Fielded interviews with national newspapers (Globe and Mail, National Post), radio and TV stations (CBC the National and many others) as well as regional media across the country.

- Initiated (and presently developing) workshops for Ground Water treatment to be held at George Gordon First Nation in SK and on Surface Water treatment to be held in AB.

- Presented to educators, health professionals, and concerned community leaders here in Canada, as well as to international audiences including to the United Nations in New York in 2005 at the request of Indigenous Environmental Network USA.



An example of arsenic poisoning

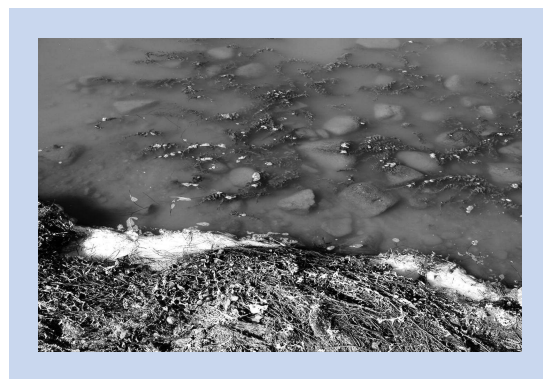
- Hosted a conference “The Future of Water Treatment” in September 2004 empowering almost 300 delegates to be better informed and earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Recorded all presentations and made these available to communities in Canada and internationally, reaching thousands more.
- Prepared to host community workshops with internationally acclaimed scientists and physicians from around the world offering to volunteer their expertise for satellite broadcasts.

Due to our efforts thousands of people are now enjoying the benefits of having truly safe drinking water here in Canada, rather than drinking water that is only perceived as being safe. However, hundreds of rural and/or aboriginal communities and thousands of individuals are constantly seeking advice or support from SDWF, and while we have the expertise and technology, we do not have the funds to help them.

Of course, the government is ultimately responsible for providing safe drinking water to Canadians. In spite of this, our current federal government has made more cuts to water treatment plant construction in aboriginal communities than we ever thought possible. SDWF scientists estimate that over 90% of all aboriginal community water treatment plants cannot meet the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. The reason for this is manifold, but SDWF believes that the treatment systems presently being used can be compared to tea strainers when, at minimum, coffee filters are required. The lack of action to provide safe drinking water to ALL Canadians is mirrored in the fact that Canada remains the only developed country to repeatedly vote “NO” at the United Nations, when asked to agree and support the issue that safe drinking water is a basic human right.

SDWF’s work is now closely scrutinized both in India and China and we expect that implementation of the drinking water treatment processes that we have developed will reach many more people both in Canada and abroad during the next five years. For example, the George Gordon First Nation community is currently saving more than \$100,000 a year after it switched from conventional to biological treatment. In addition, this community decreased its need for backwash water from 23 million L to 0.4 million L, backwash labor went from 1400 to 40 hours per year. This current data is fully supported by research collected by both the SDWF and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). **These large financial savings are over and above the positive impact on the environment as chemical use decreased by more than 90%.**

This all points to the one key premise that underlies the SDWF mission to promote and develop safe drinking water technologies: “Use science, don’t abuse science”. This is truly a win-win situation where no one loses and everybody wins (well, except perhaps for chemical suppliers). While past support for the SDWF allowed us to develop solutions, future support will allow us to implement those solutions. We believe safe drinking water is the basic human right of ALL Canadians and by using science SDWF has shown that it can be done cost-effectively. Indeed, continued work by SDWF’s AAWTT has resulted in many improvements, which are continuing to make the processes we have developed even cheaper. The cost of water treatment should also consider human health and environmental costs. When this becomes a reality even the current costs of what we have developed are lower than ineffective conventional systems. Your financial support will go a long way toward educating and thereby empowering people toward positive change, and ensuring truly safe drinking water becomes a reality in rural communities around the world.



We would like to thank the following sponsors who have supported SDWF for the majority of the past ten years. We could not have achieved these results without this consistent support.
The S.M. Blair Foundation together with...



We believe we have demonstrated and proved that we have the scientific expertise, the passion, and the support of dedicated individuals and internationally acclaimed scientists to promote our programs. We know that SDWF is meeting important needs for all people – providing education and supporting technological advances and research for safe drinking water! We are in the business of improving lives by reducing illness and increasing the capabilities of impoverished people not only giving them hope, but incredible pride – and safe drinking water!

We are presently involving our new Board of Directors to establish a strategic plan and vision, for the next decade and beyond. With your support we will deliver our programs to help many more Canadians become informed and knowledgeable about issues surrounding safe drinking water and their options. We hope that you will continue to support us with financial contributions and/or working partnerships. Here are some ways you can support SDWF:

- Take out individual, community or corporate membership in SDWF
- Link to our website from your website www.safewater.org
- Inform your members of the SDWF as a preferred resource on drinking water issues
- Feature articles from SDWF in your newsletters
- Invite AAWTT members to make presentations at your next conference or workshop
- Sponsor SDWF workshops, research or education programs
- Sponsor SDWF education programs to schools in your area – and in impoverished communities
- Support operating and administration costs for SDWF
- Sponsor drinking water treatment pilot tests of IBROM process in rural and First Nation communities
- Sponsor further development of AAWTT members and their activities

For More Information Contact:

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