

From the Tap: The Safe Drinking Water Foundation Newsletter

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From the Executive Director's Desk...

Honestly, we are blown away by the amount of funding we have received this year and the number of funders who have expressed interest in donating to us soon!

We are so grateful to the individuals, foundations, corporations, and other organizations that have provided us with funding this year!

We are very excited to take a break – because it has been very busy for quite a long time. However, we are also looking forward to coming back in January refreshed and renewed. This spring will bring the launch of our redeveloped Operation Water Spirit program, hundreds of water testing kits being sent to schools across Canada, the conclusion of our Student Action on Saskatchewan Water Attitudes competition, and hopefully the beginning of several new projects. We feel the momentum building, and we encourage you to join us in whatever way you can – sponsor kits for schools, donate, purchase kits for your school, or use sponsored kits in your classroom.



Now, we turn to a more somber note. I received very sad news the morning of Friday, October 26 when I learned that our founder, Dr. Hans Peterson, passed away on Wednesday, October 24. Dr. Hans Peterson, along with some of his colleagues from around the world, started Safe Drinking Water Foundation in December 1997 and it became a registered Canadian charity in January 1998. Hans was instrumental in getting us to the point where we are at today – having educated approximately half a million students about drinking water quality issues and solutions in a hands-on manner. We miss him, but we are all very dedicated to continuing his work.

My wish for you and your loved ones this holiday season is that, in this hustle-bustle world, the holidays provide you with an opportunity to sit in a comfortable spot with a warm beverage, reflect on the year that was, and dream about the year that is to come.

Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole M. Hancock".

Nicole M. Hancock



**Thank You to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation –
Saskatchewan Chapter!**

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – Saskatchewan Chapter provided us with \$4,505 for sponsored water testing kits to be sent to Saskatchewan schools that are on the waiting list for sponsored kits and are located in communities where TD operates. Thank you TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – Saskatchewan Chapter!



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

Thank You to Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation

Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation has provided us with \$4,165 to send sponsored water testing kits to schools in their catchment area. Thank you Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation!



Thank You to Federated Co-operatives Limited

The Saskatoon location of Federated Co-operatives Limited provided us with \$2,635 to send sponsored water testing kits to schools in Saskatoon and the Winnipeg location of Federated Co-operatives Limited provided us with \$510 to send sponsored Elementary Operation Water Drop kits to schools in Winnipeg. Thank you Federated Co-operatives Limited!



**Federated
Co-operatives
Limited**

Thank You to Gibson Energy

Gibson Energy has provided us with \$1,000 to send water testing kits to schools which are on the waiting list for sponsored kits and are located in communities where they operate. Thank you Gibson Energy!



Request Sponsored Kits for Spring!

We are not currently sending Operation Water Drop and Operation Water Biology kits to schools, but we will be sending hundreds of these kits this spring! Teachers, it only takes about three minutes to request sponsored kits for your students! The sooner you request sponsored kits, the greater your chance of receiving sponsored kits if your school fits the criteria of one of our funders. We currently have sponsored Operation Water Drop kits available for rural and First Nations schools across the country, provided the teacher agrees to enter his or her students' results into the Operation Water Drop Test Results Submission Website. We also currently have sponsored kits (all three types) available for First Nations and rural high schools in Manitoba, so make sure you get your name on the waiting list ASAP! We have also just learned that we are receiving funding to send sponsored kits to schools that normally do not get sponsored kits.

Please visit www.safewater.org/sponsored-kit-request-form to request sponsored kits today!

Join Our Facebook Group!

Join us on Facebook to hear all of our news as it happens! Along with our news and water news, we also post Water Facts of the Week on Mondays, Talk Back Tuesdays (feedback about our educational programs), Watch It Wednesdays (videos about anything related to water), Thank You Thursdays, and Funny Fridays!

Visit: www.facebook.com/groups/safedrinkingwaterfoundation/

Remembering Dr. Hans Peterson



Dr. Hans Peterson founded Safe Drinking Water Foundation over twenty years ago, along with a few of his colleagues around the world. He worked tirelessly to help First Nations communities and other communities to resolve their drinking water quality issues. He invented the Integrated Biological and Reverse Osmosis Membrane (IBROM) treatment system while living in a pilot trailer at Yellow Quill First Nation for approximately a year and a half, which resulted in the termination of a boil water advisory which had persisted for over nine years and effectively treated Yellow Quill's extremely poor ground water – water that was considered untreatable. Since then, the invention helped end boil water advisories for 21 First Nations communities. Over 100,000 people have safe drinking water because of Hans' invention. If it were not for Hans taking the initiative to found Safe Drinking Water Foundation it would not exist and it would not have already educated approximately half of a million Canadian students in a hands-on manner.

CBC News wrote an article titled "Dr. Hans Peterson remembered for bringing safe drinking water to thousands", you can read it here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/dr-hans-peterson-remembered-for-bringing-safe-drinking-water-to-thousands-1.4885821>

CBC Saskatoon Morning's Leisha Grebinski interviewed SDWF's Executive Director, Nicole Hancock, and Brian Trainberg, lead operator of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation Treatment Plants, on October 31, you can listen to the interview here: <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1358074947977>

Thank you to those who gave donations to SDWF in lieu of flowers in his memory.

Thank You SO MUCH to All of Our Funders!

We could not send close to 1,000 educational kits to schools and educate tens of thousands of Canadian students this school year, redevelop our Operation Water Spirit program and translate part of it into Cree and part of it into Saulteaux, develop more educational resources for teachers, hold our Student Action on Saskatchewan Water Attitudes Competition, participate in various educational and environmental events, and share more information about drinking water quality issues and solutions with the world without you!

Thank you to our 2018 donors:



Federated
Co-operatives
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Saskatchewan Association for
Resource Recovery Corp.



TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada
















Anonymous Family Foundation

S. M. Blair Family Foundation

Individual Donors

School division and school personnel who
purchased kits

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!




-  Teachers who entered their Operation Water Drop test results into our Operation Water Drop Test Results Submission Website, evaluated our educational programs and shared information with us about what they and their students did to take action, sent educational resources to us to share with other teachers, and told other teachers about our educational programs.
-  Our Board of Directors: Ray Blumenfeld (Chair), Dr. David Schindler (Honourary Chair), Dr. John O'Connor, Dr. Tim Molnar, Tracy Webb and Dr. Lalita Bharadwaj
-  Shyam Pillai, Jodell Rowland, and Anna-Maria Boechler for being volunteer judges for our Student Action on Saskatoon Water Attitudes Competition and volunteering to help the students to continue their projects.
-  Our Facebook group members for asking questions and sharing information about water issues.
-  Saskatchewan Environmental Society and City of Saskatoon for coordinating the Student Action for a Sustainable Future program and inviting us to present at the Professional Development Day for the teachers in the program.
-  Teachers who invited me into their classrooms to present information to their students and to help their students to use the water testing kits.
-  Teachers across Canada who had us give online presentations to their students.
-  University of Saskatchewan and Dr. Tim Molnar for having us present to his education students twice and having them use an Operation Water Drop kit.
-  Media (CBC, Maclean's, others) who contacted us to get our opinions about stories.
-  Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society for having a volunteer use our water testing kits with kids and promoting our educational programs at Nelson's first Youth Water Festival.
-  Science on Stage Canada for inviting us to be a part of their festival and have a display at their festival.
-  Our staff members, for continuing to work hard.
-  Robert Hancock for helping with some of the more technical aspects of our website and for editing documents and e-mail messages.

Purchase Hands-On Water Testing Kits to Engage Your Students in Active Learning!

You can purchase kits at any point and we will send your Operation Water Pollution kit to you immediately and send your Operation Water Drop and/or Operation Water Biology kits to you on the first spring mail out date – the first Monday in March!

Purchasing a kit is the only way to guarantee receiving a kit. An Elementary Operation Water Drop kit can be used with an entire classroom of eager learners and only costs \$85. High School Operation Water Drop kits cost \$170 each. An Operation Water Pollution kit costs \$170 and is guaranteed to be reusable for at least two years – so all of the students in your school can use it! Operation Water Biology kits cost \$170 each.

To purchase kits:

-  Phone us at 1-306-934-0389 and provide us with your Visa or MasterCard information.
-  Or purchase kits on our website (www.safewater.org/order-kits)
-  Or mail a cheque payable to Safe Drinking Water Foundation to #1-912 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z6. We accept purchase orders too.

Reminder to Teachers: Please Don't Forget to Submit Your Students' Results to the Operation Water Drop Test Results Submission Website!

Please submit your students' Operation Water Drop (OWD) test results! Not only will you be involving your students in citizen science, but you will also receive a token of our appreciation! If you have used one or more OWD kits with your students, please go to <https://testresults.safewater.org> in order to enter their results. If you have lost your code(s) click on the Lost your code? link, enter your e-mail address, and your code(s) will be e-mailed to you.

If you received a sponsored kit thanks to Lush, then you agreed to submit your students' OWD results after having used the kit; this was a condition of receiving a sponsored kit thanks to this funding.



As Little as \$85 Can Put Authentic Water Testing Materials in the Hands of 30 Elementary Students in Your Community!

There are hundreds of Canadian schools on the waiting list for sponsored kits - we are certain that at least one of the schools is near you! You can make it possible for a classroom of students to learn about water quality issues and solutions, be supported and encouraged in sharing knowledge with others and in taking action to alleviate drinking water quality issues, to participate in citizen science, and to test the water they drink every day, for as little as \$85.

Please phone us at 1-306-934-0389 to find out more about how you can sponsor a kit for a school near you, or visit our homepage (www.safewater.org) where you will find an interactive map of all of the Canadian schools that are waiting for sponsored kits. Click on the school for which you would like to buy a kit and use our easy, online system to sponsor a kit for that school! You can make a difference in the lives of students!



State of Drinking Water Quality in Canada

According to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1506514143353/1506514230742>) as of December 5, 2018 there were 66 long-term (meaning the advisory has been in place for more than a year) drinking water advisories in effect in First Nations communities. In addition, according to Health Canada (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/health-environment/water-quality-health/drinking-water/advisories-first-nations-south-60.html>) as of December 6, 2018, there were 42 short-term Drinking Water Advisories in place in First Nations communities. These numbers include public water systems financially supported by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) but not systems in British Columbia and within the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

In total, across Canada, according to watertoday.ca (<http://www.watertoday.ca>) as of December 10, 2018 there were 970 Boil Water Advisories and 50 Do Not Consume Orders.

Sign Up to Receive Drinking Water Quality News from Safe Drinking Water Team

The goal of Safe Drinking Water Team is safe drinking water from every tap. Safe Drinking Water Team (SDWT) is a group of First Nations water treatment plant operators and scientific advisors who help other First Nations water treatment plant operators and rural water treatment plant operators with their water treatment challenges. SDWT also promotes the best available technology for water treatment and advocates for stricter guidelines and regulations for drinking water.

SDWT sends out information about drinking water quality issues and solutions in First Nations and rural communities approximately once a month. To receive this valuable information please visit <https://www.safedrinkingwaterteam.org> and enter your name and e-mail address at the bottom of the homepage to subscribe to their mailing list or send an e-mail with the subject "Subscribe" to safedrinkingwaterteam@gmail.com.



This Holiday Season, Please Do One of the Smartest Things You Can Do to Improve the Drinking Water Quality Situation in Canada: Donate to Safe Drinking Water Foundation

You can make it possible for us to educate the leaders of today and tomorrow about drinking water quality issues and solutions by making a donation. Donors can choose to make one-time, monthly or annual donations. If organizations donate \$1,000 or more they will receive recognition in SDWF's quarterly newsletters twice, and if they donate \$10,000 or more they will also receive recognition on SDWF's website for one year (the SDWF website currently receives over 391,000 unique visitors per year and is on track to receive over 468,000 unique visitors next year) and their logo will include a hyperlink to their website. All donors are also thanked on our Facebook page and in our Facebook group. For more information, please visit: www.safewater.org/donate

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation!

Donations can be made:

- 💧 On our website (www.safewater.org/donate)
- 💧 By phoning us at 1-306-934-0389 with your Visa or MasterCard information.
- 💧 By mailing a cheque payable to Safe Drinking Water Foundation to #1-912 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z6.

Receipts for income tax purposes are issued for all donations of \$20 or more. If you have any questions or would like to simply phone us and make a donation with a Visa or MasterCard please do not hesitate to call us at 1-306-934-0389. Thank you!



Contact us:



info@safewater.org

OR



(306) 934-0389