

*“Empowering Water
Purification and Protection
with Treaty 8 First Nations.”*

CONTACT US

You opinion matters. If you are interested in participating in any future events please reach out.

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**TREATY 8
FIRST NATIONS
OF ALBERTA**

Treaty 8 Water and
Wastewater Project

BACKGROUND

In 2020, First Nations in the Treaty 8 region raised concerns about water and wastewater issues. The exploration of a First Nation Water and Wastewater governance structure was initiated in response to these concerns with a focus on designing First Nation solutions for delivering water and wastewater projects, protecting treaty rights to water and source water, and providing sustainable wastewater treatment. A governance structure can take many forms, including using Indigenous Knowledge in management approaches, developing partnerships to address water quality or quantity issues, and developing legislation, standards of practice, recommend funding, and training.

PROJECT TEAM

The project team consists of a Project Coordinator (Daryl Auger) from Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta (T8FNA), supported by a steering committee made up of designated First Nation representatives with expertise in water and wastewater planning, governance, Treaty Rights, and water source protection.

The team also includes:

- First Nation Water Management Specialists/Technicians with specialized knowledge in water management in a Treaty 8 context
- Elders/Knowledge Keepers from Treaty 8 First Nations
- Youth representatives from Treaty 8 are involved, bringing fresh perspectives on water and wastewater management.

MILESTONES

PROJECT MILESTONE 1

A call for committee members was issued in January 2024, followed by a selection process. The first meeting of the Water & Wastewater Steering Committee took place on March 21, 2024, when T8 FNA hosted a Water Summit.

PROJECT MILESTONE 2

In 2024, the Water & Wastewater Steering Committee developed a Terms of Reference (TOR), and Request for proposals (RFP) then selected an engineering company to conduct the study. The group has met five times throughout the year to guide the project forward.

PROJECT MILESTONE 3

Several committee members attended meetings in Toronto to shared their perspectives on the water and wastewater management responsibilities.

NEXT STEPS

The future phases of this project involves a thorough examination. Some of these actions are listed below.

- Launch an engagement process to gather valuable input from community members on asset mapping and assessment.
- Perform an in-depth evaluation of the costs involved in maintaining and replacing aging water and wastewater assets to inform long-term planning and strategy.
- Create a sustainable, 10-year water and wastewater management plan.

Together, these steps will ensure the future resilience of our water and Nations.

