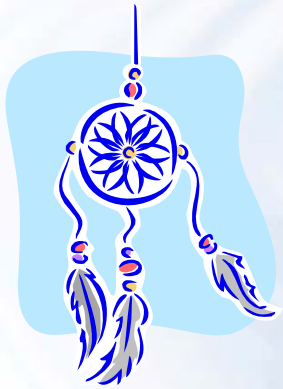
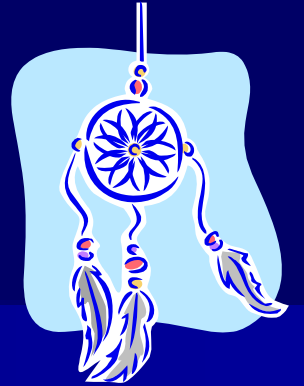
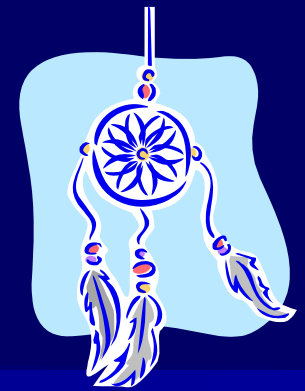


# Circuit Rider Training Program

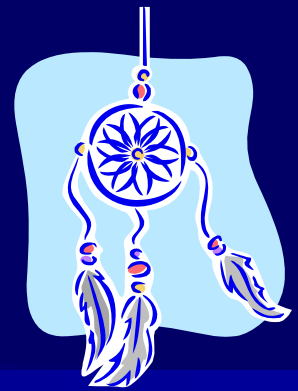


# Agenda



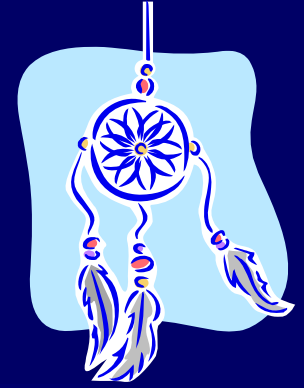
- Short History of the CRTP
- Current Focus
- Future Direction

# Short History



- In operation for the past 5 yrs
- Facilitated in getting 24 Certified Operators in the 4 disciplines
- Our Trainers are all provincially certified level I, II III
- Currently, TSAG has 6 trainers

# Background



- Walkerton, North Battleford, Kasechewan
- Oct 2005 in Kasechewan
  - high E.Coli levels
  - ¼ of the residents airlifted out to surrounding communitites.
  - Another 250 were airlifted to Ottawa.

# Background

- Highlighted the need to improve water quality amongst First Nations communities
- Off reserve facilities all have certified operators as a requirement by law

# Background

- No regulation exists for FN communities
  - Interim - Protocol for Safe Drinking Water In First Nations Communities – March 2006
    - Outlines design, construction, operation and maintenance practices for your systems

- Anyone involved with the water plants from leadership down should be very familiar with this Protocol

- Protocol

The document can also be found at  
[www.inac-ainc.gc.ca/h2o](http://www.inac-ainc.gc.ca/h2o)

# Background

- Will phase out when the Federal Government and FN's leadership develop a regulatory regime (4 to 5 years away)
- Benefit of regulation is that it spells out very clearly what is required to ensure the water is and remains safe to drink

- So where are we now?

# Current Situation

- A lot of good work has happened to this point
- Approx 110 operators have taken the SW and SWW course
- Approx 24 operators hold a valid Level 1 or 2 certification cert in WT, WD, WWT and WWC
- Have approx 18 operators writing certification exams this November

# Current Situation

- Many communities are still working on getting certified operators

- Getting certification is not a walk in the park
  - Need grade 12 or equivalent
  - Entry Level training
  - Prepare to write certification exams
  - One year experience required to get Level 1
  - Another year and another set of exams to get Level 2
  - Then there is Level 3.....4

- Takes effort, support and guidance
- Still have a large number of plants that don't have certified operators

- We have been working on a program to bridge that certification gap – The Enhanced CRTP

# Current Situation

- The program was intended to follow through on the federal government's announcement to have all First Nation facilities operated by certified operators
- Communities should be very engaged in making this happen
- The desire is there to do this. Just need to work together to accomplish this.

# Why is this important?

- Health and safety of the community is at stake
- Potential exists for a lot of people to get sick from contaminated water
- On reserve facilities should have the same degree of attention and focus as off reserve

- This requires dedication and support of leadership in the community

- So what is the current focus?

# Current Focus of the ECRTTP

1. Deliver training and certification for water treatment operators
2. Develop community Specific Maintenance Management Plans for water and wastewater systems
3. Develop Emergency Response Plans for community water and wastewater plants
4. Ensure all operators are trained and prepared in small water and wastewater systems
5. Assist communities in dealing with BWA's

# Current Focus

1. Deliver Training and certification preparation for water and waste systems

■ How?

- An Adult Educator will assist the operator where he/she currently is at in his/her training.
- Will work right in the community providing GED guidance and support and math support or whatever else is needed.
- Most people desire to do a good job.....what lacks a lot of the time are the tools and the support needed.

# Primary Responsibilities of Adult Educator will be

- Develop an individual training action plan for each operator
- Develop a cash flow projection for the training required
- Track Progress of the trainee

- Whether or not support is being given
- Maintain complete records for all trainees
- Make recommendations to the community on how training may be enhanced

- The focus will be on communities that are trying to certify their operators

2. Develop Community specific  
Maintenance Management Plans for  
water and wastewater systems

- Need to get better at this

- Billions of dollars worth of infrastructure
- A preventative maintenance plan extends the life of the plant

- For example, if typical plant/system service lives can be doubled, (to match properly funded off-reserve systems) then the rough cost saving would be \$2 billion over a 25-30 year period (generated by not having to replace \$2 billion infrastructure after only 10-15 years). These savings work out roughly to about \$130 million annually

- Huge financial impact if we don't take care of the equipment
  - Money could be spent on other important things like housing, roads etc etc.

- Preventative maintenance also increases reliability of the plants
  - Ensures a continuous supply of safe clean drinking water for the community

# Desired Outcome:

- Want to create focus on developing community specific maintenance plans
  - Develop a list of maintenance that needs to be done daily, weekly, monthly and annually
  - Develop the maintenance procedures
  - Teach the operator how to do it
  - Work with leadership to make sure this is being carried out
  - \$\$\$\$\$\$ savings \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

- Gerry Gusdal – Circuit Rider Treaty 7 will be doing a presentation this morning on the importance of maintenance programs

- It is my hope to assign one Circuit Rider to focus on this as it will take a lot of work
  - Pay back is there
  - Good stewardship

### 3. Ensure all operators are trained and prepared in the small water and wastewater systems

- A precursor to certification
- Can take this without Grade 12 or GED
- Approx 110 operators have taken the SW and SWW courses offered through the Circuit Rider program
- Very few have written the provincial certification exams
- TSAG gives a completion Certificate but still need to apply to write the Provincial exam to be certified

## 4. Assist communities to deal with boil water advisories in a timely manner

- Target is zero BWA's on community water systems
- Can tap into the experience of the Circuit Rider as you work to get this lifted

- That is the current focus of the CRTP

- So what does the next year look like?

**The Road Forward**  
**Bite size pieces**  
**Two Major focus's**  
**Big pay-offs**

1. Develop community specific action plans to map out the road to certification
2. Develop community specific maintenance plans and work with leadership to ensure they are carried out

- Develop community specific action plans

■ How?

- Meet with Public Works directors and/or community designate/s, the operator, Circuit Rider, Adult Educator and myself

- Determine what the operator needs help with
- Set targets and goals
- Provide the operator with the tools and support he needs to be successful
- Work one on one providing guidance
- Evaluate progress
- Make recommendations to community leadership on how to improve training
- Will identify roles of all involved

- Over the next few months will be setting up these meetings

# Mind set to approach this

- Each community is unique
- Different challenges
- Different resources
- Action plans will outline the steps and the responsibilities of all involved

# Mindset

- Need open communication
- Co-operation
- Sensitivity to the challenges
- Openness
- Willingness to work together to overcome the challenges that exist
- acknowledge that this is a big job and help each other
- Approach it from an improvement mindset

- Ultimate goal is to get the operators certified to the level of the plant.
  - I.e. a Class 1 plant needs a level 1 operator, class 2 a level 2 operator, class 3 a level 3 operator
- Cost effective alternative to outside contractors

# The other focus:

- Develop a Preventative Maintenance Program
  - Assign a circuit rider to focus on this
  - Leadership in community will need to support the execution of the maintenance
  - Any improvement program fails without support from the top i.e. C&C, public works & technical directors, proper fund allocation etc etc
  - \$\$\$\$\$ saved in maintaining your assets

- How will we know if we are making progress?

# Key Measurements for success

- Number of Community Specific Action Plans developed
- Number of BWA's in an area
- Is maintenance plan developed
- Is maintenance plan being followed

# Key Measurements for success

- Is operator certified to the level of the plant
- Is there an ERP in place to minimize the impact on the delivery of safe water to residents in the event of an emergency (prolonged power outage, fire at the plant, Boil Water Advisory, etc)

- In Conclusion.....

# Need to work together

- Developing certified operators needs to be a collaborative effort
- If we work together we can successfully help the operator get certification
- Make sure your operator is supported

- I encourage you to take full advantage of the service we offer
- Please feel free to phone me to discuss particular needs
- We work for the communities
- Squeaky wheels get the grease

# In addition

- Just the main focuses
- Circuit rider also provides a lot of support in optimizing plants, hands on training, reservoir cleaning, hydrant repair, minor maintenance, reacting to emergencies and upsets, responding to community needs
- Can see it is a big job – need the communities support
- Not mentioning wastewater.....

- Key to success is the support of key leadership people in the community
- Any improvement program fails if it is not supported by leadership

# Who are the Circuit Riders

- Hard working dedicated individuals with a lot of passion for helping the communities
- Devin Meneen – North
- Shannon Gladue – Slave Lake
- Murray Healy – Central
- Brad Tourangeau – St. Paul
- Gerald Gusdal – South
- Dave Barabash – Western Cree

# Contact

- To get the ball rolling on developing action plans contact:
  - Helen Jacobsen
  - Phone 780 483 8601
  - Cell 780 984 7565
  - Email [hjacobsen@tsag.net](mailto:hjacobsen@tsag.net)

- I will also systematically contact communities to try to set this up
- If communities contact me with an interest in developing action plans will focus on those first

- Questions??????