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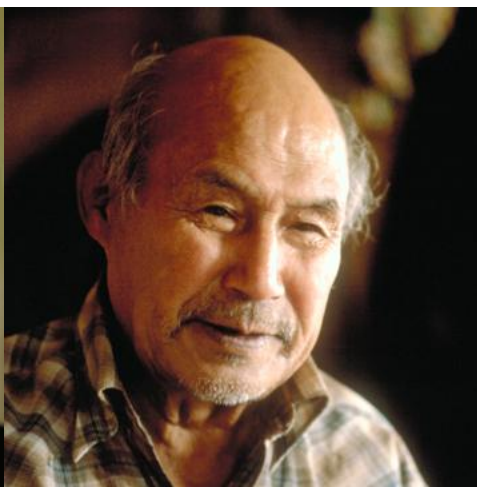
*Votre santé et votre
sécurité... notre priorité.*

Environmental Public Health Services Safe Drinking Water – Our Role

Simon Sihota

Regional Environmental Public Health Manager
Environmental Public Health Services

2011 TSAG Conference and Tradeshow
November 1, 2011



Canada 

EPHS Core Program Areas

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1. **Drinking Water Safety Program**
2. Healthy Housing Program
3. Food Safety Program
4. Solid Waste Disposal
5. Wastewater
6. Environmental Contaminants and Research
7. Communicable Disease Control
8. Emergency Preparedness and Response



Drinking Water Safety Program (DWSP)

- The AB Region FNIH safe drinking water program works to ensure the protection of health through the monitoring of drinking water supplies (surveillance) and advocating for better public health protection measures for drinking water supplies in Alberta First Nation communities
- *EPHS has the mandate to implement and oversee sampling of drinking water in FN communities (DWSP)*

accomplished through

Partnership, Collaboration, Transparency, Timely Communication



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Drinking Water Safety Program

Components of EPHS Safe Drinking Water Program (DWSP)

- Risk Assessment
- Surveillance
- Communication
- Funding
- Partners
- Training/ Education/Building Capacity



Risk Assessment

- Development of sampling schedules based on the GCDWQ, EPHS Documents, Provincial standards and community infrastructure
- Water treatment plant inspection and public health assessment
- Review plans for new or upgraded water treatment plants
- Investigate suspected problems with drinking water supplies
- Special/targeted projects
- Recommendations for mitigative and corrective actions (risk management)



Public Health Surveillance

- All drinking water samples (>30,000/year) are reviewed by specially trained Environmental Health Officers (CPHI (C) designations)
- Ongoing surveillance and monitoring of microbiological, chemical parameters and disinfection levels in drinking water systems. Done in accordance with GCDWQ
- All adverse results are reported immediately to the EHOs and appropriate community staff. Adverse result response protocols are in place
- **Where required**, drinking water advisories are issued
- All drinking water sampling results (data), including sampling compliance rates are provided to the communities



Communication

Lines of Communication

- Written sampling frequency schedules
- Sample reporting forms
- Protocol for failed results
- Reporting on Sample Schedule completion
- Drinking Water Advisory Protocol
- Community-based Water Teams
- Weekly meeting with INAC and TSAG Circuit Riders
- Data sharing agreements
- Annual regional and community specific reports
- Daily contact with Water Monitors, WTPO, Circuit Riders



Brandon MacLeod
(from left) Chief of Kikewin Cree Nation Ernest Gadwa, along with Simon Sihota regional environment health manager for Health Canada and Rob Barone director of contract operations with Alberta Health Services sign data sharing agreements Oct. 28 at the Bonnyville Indian-Metis Rehabilitation Centre.

[view all photos \(1\)](#)

Agreement signed *information to be shared between First Nations and government*

Nov 02, 2010 06:00 am | By Brandon MacLeod | Bonnyville Nouvelle

The sharing of data and information between six chiefs of First Nations, Health Canada and Alberta Health Services was formalized Oct. 28 and is expected to improve reserves' services such as emergency services, construction planning and water safety.

The shared information includes maps, GPS coordinates, land



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Funding for DWSP and Communities

Two funding sources for communities in the Drinking Water Safety Program (DWSP).

1. DWSP funding in main Health Contribution Agreement
2. Additional supplemental funds as available through First Nations Water and Waster Water Action Plan (FNWWAP)

FNWWAP funds are also provided to communities through CA's for

- To ensure completion of bacteriological sampling as per schedules and to offset sampling related costs (salary, transportation etc.)
- FNWWAP funding has been provided to complete private water surveys (wells and cisterns)
- Health Canada covers all analytical costs for bacteriological and chemical sampling,
- HC provides training and all equipment needed by community based water monitors



HC Responsibilities

- HC is only responsible for the drinking water sampling program , and does **NOT** receive Capital or O&M funding for plant operations
- Health Canada does **NOT** regulate plant operators or the operation of the water treatment plants
- Health Canada does **NOT** have any enforcement authority with respect to plant operation
- Health Canada plays an advisory role with respect to plant operations and will make recommendations with respect to plant operations from a public health perspective



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Training/ Education Building/ Capacity

- Training to conduct bacteriological water monitoring, including how to sample, submit, what to report, when to report and why
- Regional drinking water procedure manual
- Training through the CHR program at Portage, and one on one community training of water monitors
- Link communities with researchers for community-based research
- Water education in schools – TSAG
- Drinking water education through health fairs and targeted workshops
- Development of national water monitor training program
- Training of drinking water truck drivers
- Water Workshops, Videoconferences, Instructional Videos



Partners in the Drinking Water Safety Program

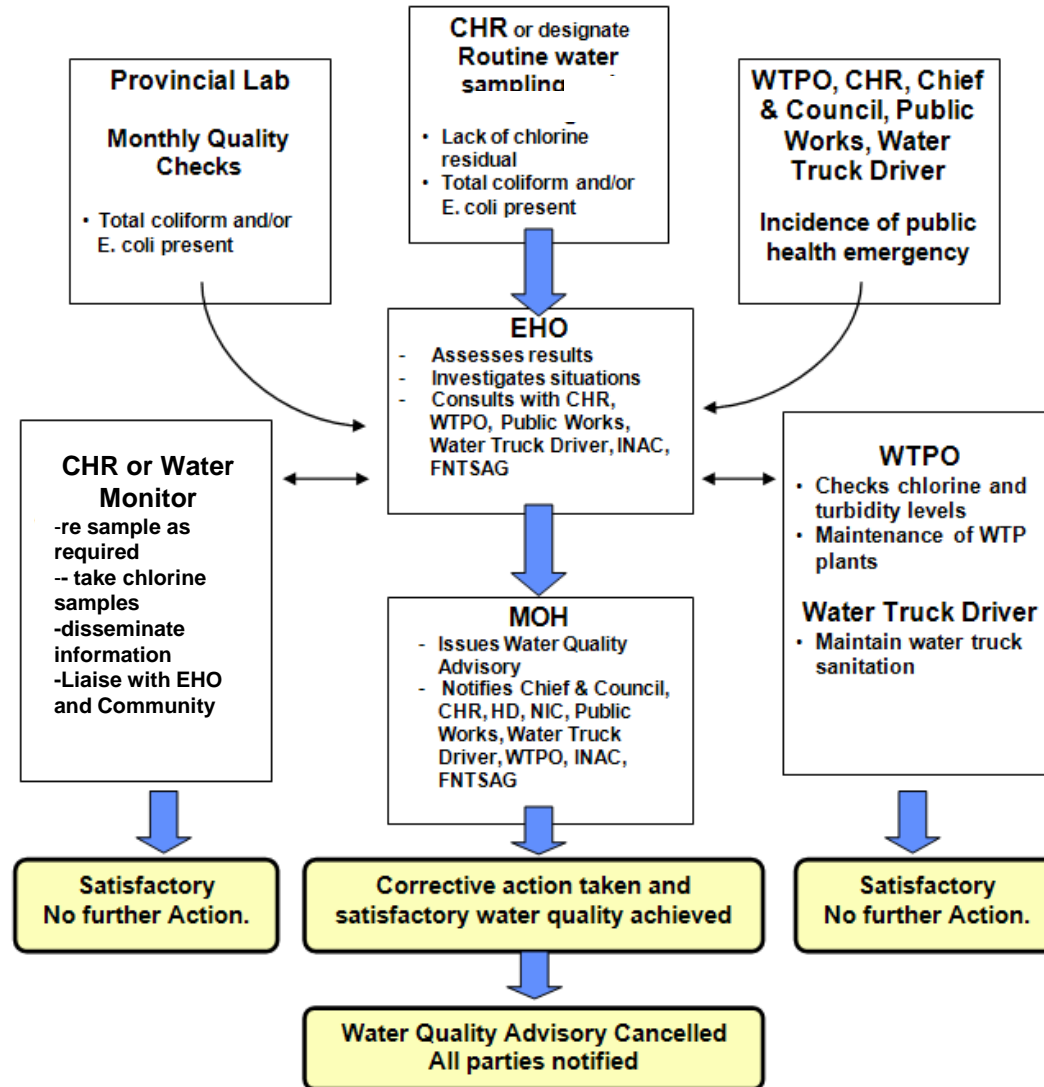
- The Drinking Water safety Program is based on collaboration and cooperation with many partners.
- **Health Canada** – EHOs, MOH
- **First Nations** including Chief and Councils, HD, WTPOs, CHR, CBWM, Public Works, Water Truck Drivers etc
- **TSAG** - Circuit Riders, Health Educator
- **AANDC**– Project Officers, Capital Officers, Project Engineer
- **Accredited Labs** -Provincial Laboratory (AHS), ALS for Chemical Analysis (Edmonton & Calgary Microbiologists, lab technicians



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Partners in the Drinking Water Safety Program

WATER QUALITY ADVISORY PROTOCOL FOR FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES ALBERTA REGION – FLOW CHART



Thank You

