

# Co-creating of Indigenous Water Quality Tools

## 1 WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?



"...within Canada's First Nations Communities, **one-third** of the population considers the primary source of **drinking water to be unsafe** to drink, and **12%** of First Nations communities must **boil their drinking water**.<sup>1</sup>"

## 2 OVERALL OUTLOOK

2

First Nations with the most days under a water advisory

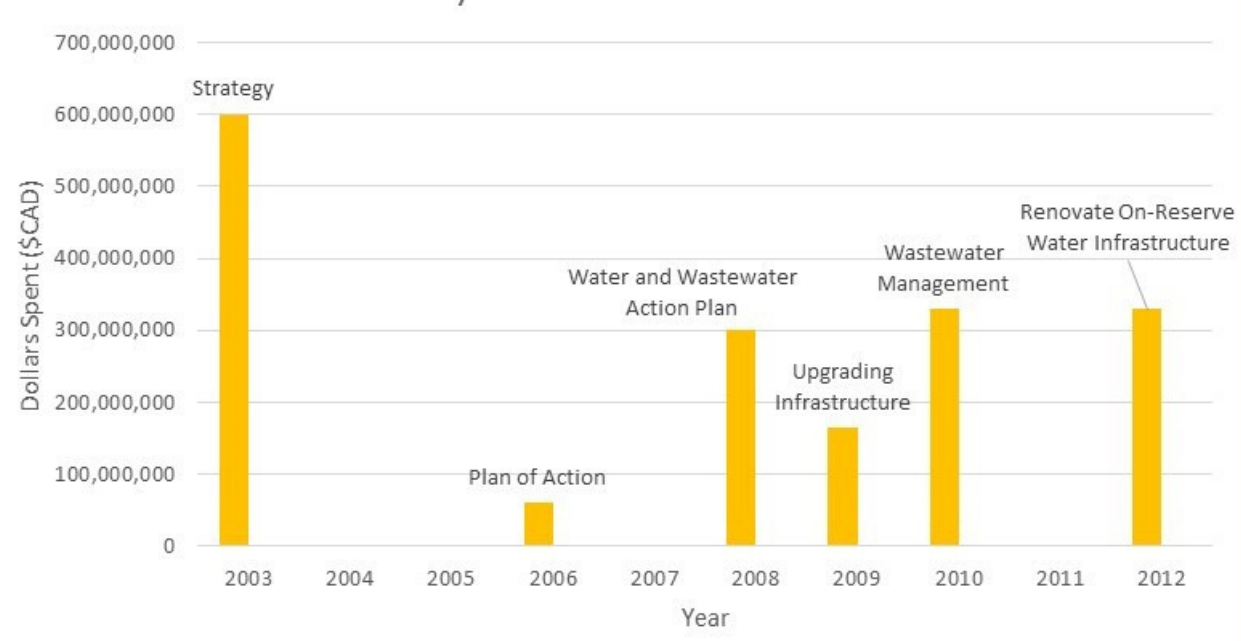


The issues related to water are noted in many indigenous across the country - including the sites under investigation in this project

## 3 EXISTING MEASURES & MAJOR CHALLENGES

3

Canadian Government's Financial Commitments for Upgrading Water Systems on First Nations Land



Contaminated drinking water



Poor water infrastructure



Limited water availability



Poor wastewater management

The Project "Co-creating of Indigenous Water Quality Tools," funded under the **Global Water Futures** (<https://gwf.usask.ca/>) wherein **UNU-INWEH** (<http://inweh.unu.edu>) is a partner with **McMaster University** to examine the governance dynamics related water security status in two distinct communities [Six Nations of the **Grand River** (Ontario) and **Lubicon Cree Nation** of Little Buffalo (northern Alberta)]

More information at - <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/indigenous/news/co-creating-of-indigenous-water-quality-tools>

## 4 SOLUTIONS



<http://yourontarioresearch.ca/2018/01/mcmaster-research-team-tackles-water-issues-first-nations-communities/>

- Incorporate indigenous knowledge in the decision making process.
- Enforce regulations
- Increase funds for capital, operation, maintenance costs<sup>4</sup>
- Focus on innovative governance mechanisms to facilitate sharing and integration of contemporary science and Indigenous and Local Knowledge.

<sup>1</sup> von der Porten, S. and de Loë, R.C, 2010. Water Challenges and Solutions in First Nations Communities. Waterloo, ON: Water Policy and Governance Group

<sup>2</sup> Health Canada, Northern Governments and the First Nations Health Authority of British Columbia

<sup>3</sup> Northern Affairs Canada. (2017). Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act. Retrieved March 26, 2018, from <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1330528512623/1330528554327>

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch. (2016). Make it Safe: Canada's Obligation to End the First Nations Water Crisis. Human Rights Watch.

