



Ontario First Nations  
Technical Services  
Corporation

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017–18







Ontario First Nations  
Technical Services  
Corporation

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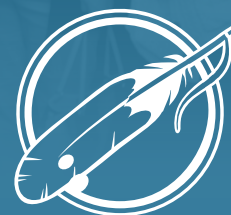
 **OFNTSC**





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# MISSION STATEMENT



The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation is the founding organization in Canada whose purpose is to provide technical and advisory services to all First Nations in Ontario and to foster self-reliance for our people.

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We will strive to achieve our mission through:

- Dedication to our roles and responsibilities as board members and staff
  - Professional integrity
  - Honest and fair advice in our relationships with each other and our First Nations, and
  - Respect for all forms of life, the water and Mother Earth
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# OUR COMMUNITIES

## **ANISHINAABEG OF KABAPIKOTAWANGAG RESOURCE COUNCIL**

Anishinaabeg of  
Naongashing  
Wauzhushk Onigum  
Big Grassy River  
Northwest Angle #33  
Northwest Angle #37  
Ojibways of Onigaming

## **BIMOSE TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Eagle Lake  
Asubpeescheewagong  
Netum Anishinabek  
Iskatewizaagegan # 39  
Lac Des Mille Lacs  
Shoal Lake # 40  
Wabauskang  
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway  
Nation  
Obashkaandagaang  
Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining  
Wabaseemoong

## **MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT INC.**

Aroland  
Constance Lake  
Eabametoong  
Ginoogaming  
Long Lake#58  
Marten Falls  
Neskantaga  
Nibinamik  
Webequie  
Horne Payne

## **PWI-DI-GOO-ZING NE YAA-ZHING TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Couchiching  
Lac La Croix  
Naicatchewenin  
Nicickousemenecaning  
Rainy River  
Seine River  
Mitaanjigamiing

## **NOKIIWIN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan  
Anishinaabek  
(Lake Nipigon Ojibway)  
Bingwi Neyaashi  
Anishinaabek  
(Sand Point)  
Biinkitiwaabik Zaaging  
Anishinaabek  
(Rocky Bay)  
Kiashke Zaaging  
Anishinaabek  
(Gull Bay)  
Pic Mobert  
Fort William

## **UNAFFILIATED NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS**

Michipicoten  
Mishkeegogamang  
Ojibways of Pic River  
Pawgwasheeng (Pays Plat)  
Red Rock  
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen  
Naotkamegwanning

## **KEEWAYTINOOK OKIMAKANAK TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Deer Lake  
Fort Severn  
Keewaywin  
McDowell Lake  
North Spirit Lake  
Poplar Hill

## **SHIBOGAMA FIRST NATIONS COUNCIL**

Kasabonika  
Wapekeka  
Wawakapewin  
Wunnumin Lake  
Kingfisher Lake

## **WINDIGO FIRST NATIONS COUNCIL**

Bearskin Lake  
Cat Lake  
Koocheching  
North Caribou Lake  
Sachigo Lake  
Slate Falls Nation  
Whitewater Lake

## **INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE**

Kitchenuhmaykoosib  
Inninuwug  
Muskrat Dam  
Pikangikum  
Whitesand  
Lac Seul





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#### **MUSHKEGOWUK TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Attawapiskat  
Chapleau Cree  
Fort Albany  
Kashechewan  
Missanabie Cree  
Moose Cree  
Taykwa Tagamou

#### **WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Beaverhouse  
Brunswick House  
Chapleau Ojibwe  
Matachewan  
Mattagmi  
Flying Post

#### **NORTH SHORE TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Garden River  
Mississagua #8  
Batchewana  
Sagamok Anishinawbek  
Serpent River  
Thessalon  
Whitefish Lake

#### **UNITED CHIEFS AND COUNCILS OF MNIDOO MNISING**

M'Chigeeng( West Bay)  
Aundeck Omni Kaning  
Sheguiandah  
Sheshegwaning  
Whitefish River  
Zhiibaahaasing

#### **WAABNOONG BEMJIWANG ASSOCIATION OF FIRST NATIONS**

Dokis  
Henvey Inlet  
Magnetawan  
Nipissing  
Wahnapiatae  
Wasauksing(Parry Island)

#### **UNAFFILIATED SOUTHERN FIRST NATIONS**

Temagami (Bear Island)  
Weenusk  
Wahta Mohawks  
Mississaugas of New Credit  
Hiawatha  
Curve Lake  
Chippewas of Saugeen  
Chippewas of Nawash  
Algonquins of  
Pikwakanagan  
Wahgoshig  
Shawanaga

#### **SOUTHERN FIRST NATIONS SECRETARIAT**

Caldwell  
Chippewas of Aamjiwnaang (Sarnia)  
Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point  
Chippewas of the Thames  
Delaware Nation (Moravian)

Munsee-Delaware Nation  
Oneida Nation of the Thames

#### **OGEMAWAHJ TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Chippewas of Beausoleil  
Chippewas of Georgina Island  
Rama  
Mississaugas of Alderville  
Mississaugas of Scugog Island  
Pottawatomi of Moose Deer Point

#### **LARGE FIRST NATIONS**

Bkwejwanong Territory (Walpole Island)  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte  
Sandy Lake  
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory  
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve





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# CORPORATE PROFILE

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## Corporate Overview

The Ontario First Nations' Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) was established in 1995 to provide expert technical advisory services to the First Nations of Ontario. At that time, it was the first indigenous organization in Canada mandated to provide professional technical and advisory services to First Nations' communities; and foster technical self-reliance. The OFNTSC creates future capacity by encouraging youth to pursue careers in science and technology. The OFNTSC also offers scholarships to winners of the Student Achievement Awards and the Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award. The OFNTSC additionally attends career fairs to promote careers within tribal councils and First Nations.

## Services

Since it's founding, the social, political and economic terrain in which OFNTSC operates has shifted continually. Changing demographics, competition from the private sector, reduced capital budget, replacement and maintenance of infrastructure, an enhanced recognition of unaddressed needs and reconfigured fiscal arrangements have created further challenges for OFNTSC as it endeavours to provide services in response to First Nation community needs.

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Thus, while OFNTSC continues to respond to First Nation requests, services vary according to individual community needs, levels of individual capacity, technical proficiency, management expertise and availability of funding. Consequently, the corporation provides services in a wide variety of areas:

- Climate Change
- Communications
- Emergency Planning
- Engineering
- Environment
- Fire and Safety
- Fuel Systems Management
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Operations and Maintenance
- Water and Wastewater
- Water and Waster Specialist

### DID YOU KNOW...

POPULATIONS OVER  
**2500**

*Large First Nations in Ontario are defined as those First Nations with on-reserve populations of over 2500.*

### DID YOU KNOW...

ESTABLISHED IN  
**1995**

*The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation has been established for 23 years.*

### DID YOU KNOW...

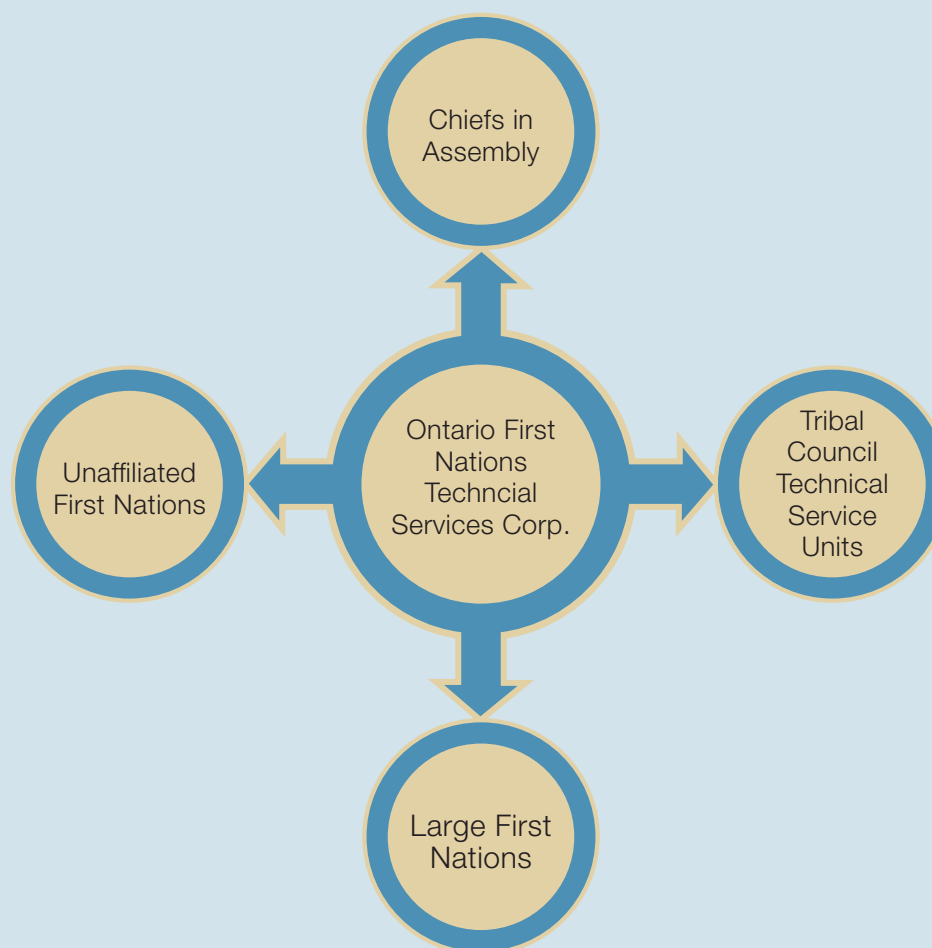


*Unaffiliated First Nations are defined as a First Nation that does not have a Tribal Council affiliation.*



# Scope of Relationships

The OFNTSC client base consists of all 133 Ontario First Nations. It also includes 16 Tribal Councils, six Large First Nations and 18 Unaffiliated First Nations. The OFNTSC maintains a collaborative partnership with Indigenous Services Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Health Canada, Environment Canada, Public Services and Procurement Services Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Furthermore, the OFNTSC pursues strategic alliances with other First Nation organizations, provincial and municipal governments, professional associations and the private sector.





## HOW WE SERVE YOU

The OFNTSC is a technical advisory service for tribal councils and First Nations in Ontario. The OFNTSC provides a variety of services to assist First Nations in the creation, operation and maintenance of infrastructure. The services provided by the OFNTSC include:



Communications

Provides information about the OFNTSC's activities as it relates to the mandate of the OFNTSC. It oversees all aspects of event planning and networking opportunities.



Emergency Planning

Assists First Nations with training of community members for emergency response and development of master emergency response plans.



Engineering

Provides Ontario First Nations with access to qualified Engineers for projects large and small. Engineers from the OFNTSC, provide oversight to projects being completed in communities across Ontario to ensure infrastructure is properly built.



Environment

Works to assist First Nations with issues directly related to land, air and water quality. Areas of service include source water protection, solid waste management, and environmental assessment processes.



Fire, Safety & Firefighting

Works with First Nations in regards to fire prevention and training in First Nation communities. It can also assist with fire code interpretation and compliance.



Fuel System Management Program

Works with fuel handlers in First Nations. The service's intent is to train fuel handlers on safe fuel handling, practices, site inspections, and spill response for emergencies.



Housing

Works with community housing departments to develop capacity and create policy as it relates to housing programs on-reserve. The Housing service also delivers training workshops and assists the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing.



Infrastructure

Provides housing and building inspection services to unaffiliated First Nations and tribal councils in Ontario. Infrastructure Specialists also assist with code compliance and interpretation for infrastructure.



Operations & Maintenance

Assists First Nations with analysis of the operations and maintenance plans First Nations have implemented. The service works closely with engineering, infrastructure and housing to provide First Nations with efficient means of operating and maintaining community assets.



Water & Wastewater

Works with First Nations to ensure treatment facilities operate at peak efficiency and within operating guidelines. Water and wastewater also provides quality assurance to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water.



Water & Wastewater Specialist

Assists unaffiliated First Nations Water/Wastewater plant operators with creating operations and maintenance plans for community water and wastewater systems. The Specialist Service also assists with record keeping, training plans and sample/testing.



Climate Change

Works with First Nations to create community energy plans, renewable energy studies, build capacity at the First Nation and tribal council level; and provide technical advice on Ontario's climate change mitigation policies.

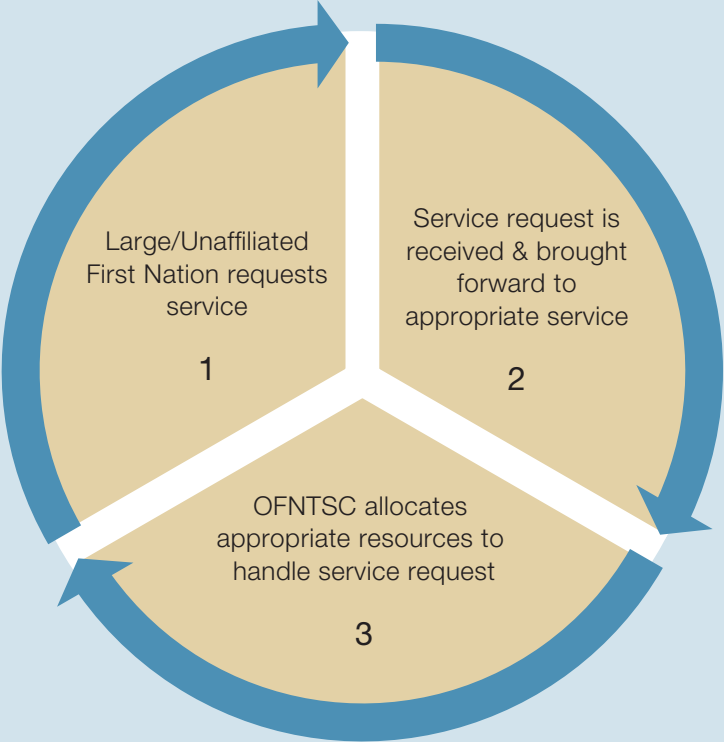
For a complete breakdown of services offered by individual service areas, please turn to the service report page you are interested in learning more about.

# HOW TO REQUEST SERVICES

There are two ways to request services from the OFNTSC:

## DIRECT METHOD

Call the OFNTSC to request service from either the Thunder Bay or Toronto service centre. This method is recommended for Unaffiliated and Large First Nations. The OFNTSC recommends that you contact either the Operations Manager or Engineering Manager for direct service.





**WHEN YOU REQUIRE SERVICE, PLEASE CALL:**

**THUNDER BAY:**

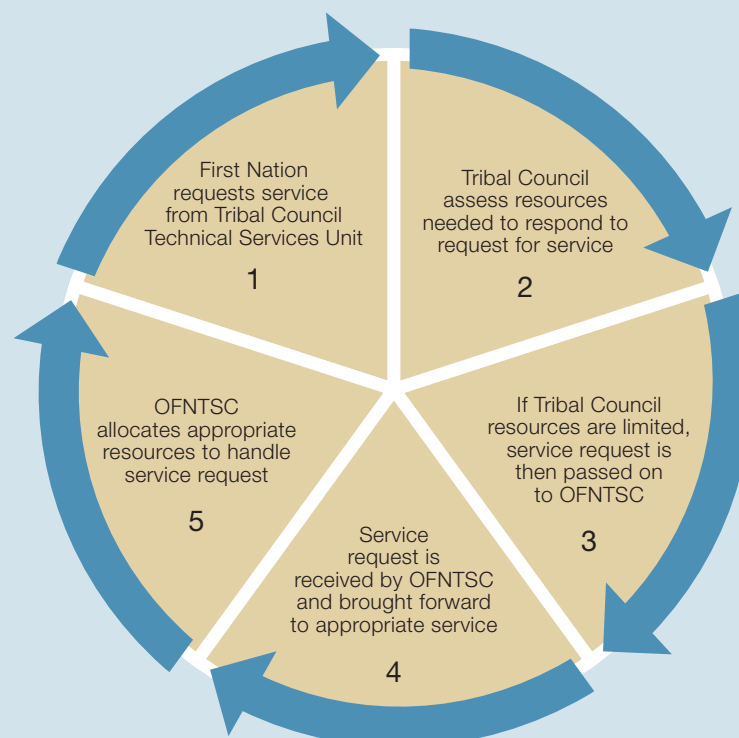
**807.623.9595 OR 1.888.892.8281**

**TORONTO:**

**416.651.1443 OR 1.888.535.3383**

## TRIBAL COUNCIL METHOD

First Nations associated with a tribal council, are to contact their own tribal council technical services unit first (preferably the manager of technical services). This will allow for the tribal council to adequately assess the resources required to achieve a project's completion. Should the tribal council not be able to provide the resources itself, the tribal council technical services unit can then request resources from the OFNTSC. At that time the OFNTSC will allocate resources to assist the First Nation.



# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**WESLEY BOVA**  
President  
Matawa First Nations  
Management



**KEVIN DEBASSIGE**  
Vice-President  
United Chiefs & Councils  
of Mniidoo Mnising



**TERRY GENERAL**  
Secretary  
Six Nations of the  
Grand River Territory



**ROGER ROZON**  
Treasurer  
Nokiiwin Tribal  
Council Inc.



**JAY BENEDICT**  
Executive  
Committee Member  
Mohawk Council of  
Akwesasne



**BLAINE  
COMMANDANT**  
Executive  
Committee Member  
Wahta Mohawks



**WILLIAM  
HUTCHINSON**  
Executive  
Committee Member  
Keewaytinook  
Okimakanak Tribal  
Council



**LAURA KAKEEWAY**  
Executive  
Committee Member  
Naotkamegwanning  
First Nation



**AARON GENEREUX**  
Executive  
Committee Member  
Ogemawahj Tribal  
Council

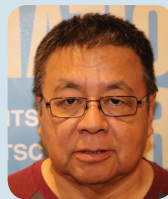




**DAVID  
GORDON**  
Independent  
First Nations  
Alliance



**DAVE  
MELLOR**  
Bimose Tribal  
Council



**LUKE MCKAY**  
Shibogama  
First Nations  
Council



**WILLIAM  
ASSINEWAI**  
Wikwemikong  
Unceded  
First Nation



**JOE C.  
MEEKIS**  
Sandy Lake  
First Nation



**RYAN  
SMALL**  
Mushkegowuk  
Tribal Council



**IRVING  
GEORGE**  
Waabnoong  
Bemjiwang  
Association of  
First Nations



**CULLEN ROBB**  
Anishinaabeg  
of Kabapiko-  
tawangang  
Resource  
Council



**CHIEF  
REGINALD  
NIGANOBE**  
Mississauga  
First Nation  
North Shore  
Tribal Council



**JASON  
BATISE**  
Wabun Tribal  
Council



**TODD KRING**  
Mohawks  
of the Bay  
of Quinte



**PAUL  
SCHISLER**  
Southern  
First Nations  
Secretariat



**ROGER  
WILLIAMS**  
Bkwejwang  
Territory  
(Walpole  
Island)



**MARK  
MCPHERSON**  
Pwi-Di-Goo-  
Zing-Ne-  
Yaa-Zhing



**JONATHAN  
SALO**  
Windigo  
First Nations  
Council



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Wesley Bova**  
*President*

It is my privilege to share with you the 23rd edition of the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's Annual Report. This year's report will focus on the strategic initiatives the Corporation has undertaken over the past year to renew the organization while also ensuring we are meeting our





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First Nations and tribal council's needs. The report will also highlight some of the great work of the OFNTSC staff and management.

First I would like to acknowledge the hiring of a new Executive Director of the OFNTSC. Her name is Melanie Debassige, and she is a band member of M'Chigeeng First Nation. Melanie is the first Indigenous female hired to provide oversight of the OFNTSC. We thank her for joining us at this time. I would also like to acknowledge that there was a period when the Corporation did not have an executive director and that a combination of managers and board members worked together to provide leadership and direction. To those individuals, we say nia:wen and chi-miigwetch for all your hard work.

The OFNTSC has received mandate review initiated by the Chiefs in Assembly by resolution 14-11 from 2014 and is ready to be presented to you during this All Ontario Chiefs Conference. The report on the mandate review is in your packages. The Board of Directors wishes to convey its gratitude for the continued support of the OFNTSC and to reaffirm its goal of providing technical advice to First Nations in Ontario.

The Corporation continues to work with partners in the federal and provincial governments to find solutions for communities that are on long-term drinking water advisories. As part of the tri-lateral steering group, the OFNTSC has been advocating for First Nations proper funding of infrastructure on reserve. To date over 26 long-term advisories have been removed from 14 First Nations in Ontario. We will be continuing this work for the foreseeable future until all First Nations in Ontario have clean drinking water.

Lastly, as the corporation's mandate review has come to an end, the Board of Directors have initiated a strategic planning process to ensure the corporation has goals that are consistent with our mission, values, and vision. The Corporation will be creating a five (5) year plan that will build on the services already offered while exploring new opportunities that will help the OFNTSC meet its potential.

On a final note, I would like to extend my thanks to the OFNTSC Board of Directors, executive committee, and staff for a job well done over the past year. We look forward to the new opportunities that our 24th year will bring us. We encourage you to come and speak with us to learn more about our initiatives.

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Melanie Debassige**  
*Executive Director*

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Although I began my journey with the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) in February 2018, nearing the end of this fiscal year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OFNTSC Board of Directors for the opportunity to lead this important organization. I am honoured to serve as the first Indigenous woman to lead the OFNTSC at this critically important and

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exciting time as we continue the important work of lifting Ontario First Nations up in the pursuit of self-sufficiency and self-determination.

Since taking on my role as OFNTSC Executive Director, I have hit the ground running and I am fully committed to seeing OFNTSC deliver on our mandate to ameliorate the many critical infrastructure issues facing our people across this province. Along with the hard working and highly skilled OFNTSC Board of Directors and staff, I am excited to be developing OFNTSC's strategic plan (2018 – 2023), which upon completion, I look forward to presenting to Ontario First Nations. It is my goal to ensure that the OFNTSC is positioned as a leader in the service delivery to Ontario First Nations, and to do this, I look to expand upon and transform existing relationships, which will assist the OFNTSC in delivering on our mandate.

I want to thank the OFNTSC staff for their continued dedication and hard work, and I look forward to the work ahead in fostering self-reliance for our people in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



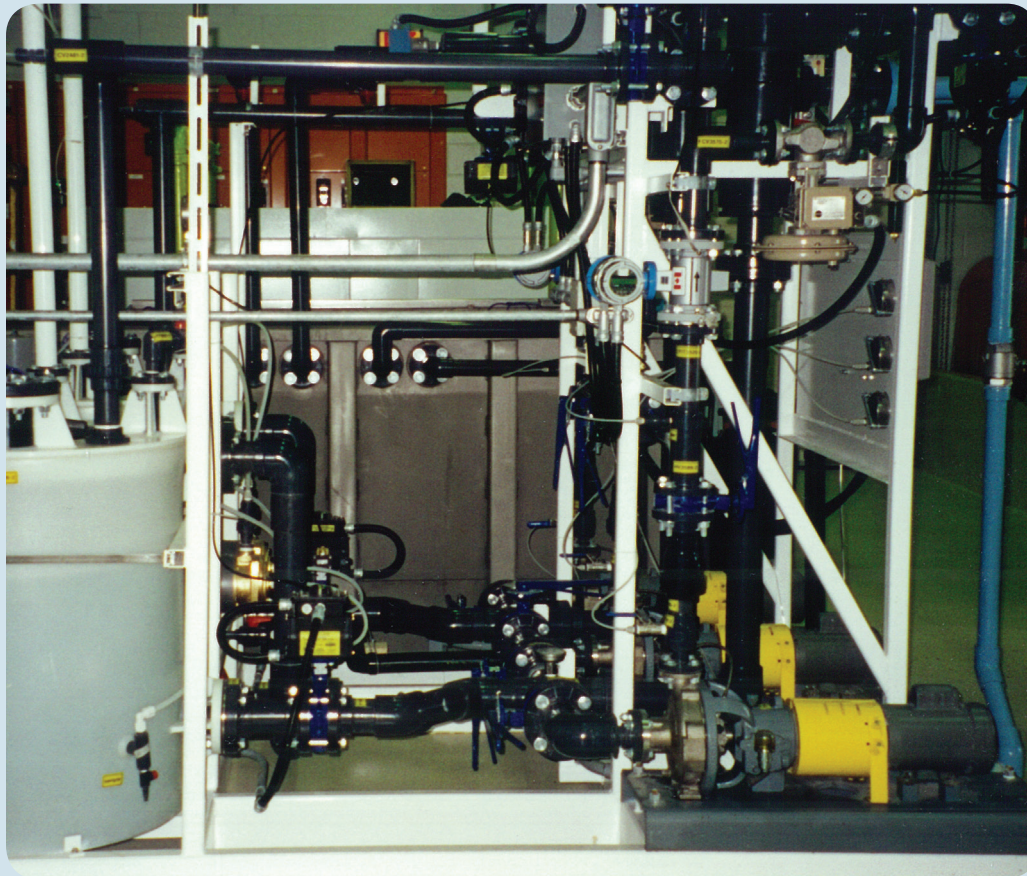




# ENGINEERING MANAGER'S REPORT

**Glen Goodman**  
*A/Engineering Manager*

The 2017-18 OFNTSC Engineering portfolio deliverables have exemplified the importance of maintaining and developing our First Nation partnerships. The past year of training initiatives delivered through the Fuel Systems Management Program and Circuit Rider Training Program has expanded community technical capacity and developed on an experienced and confident



team of First Nation water, wastewater and fuel system operators. The recently established Climate Change portfolio has successfully engaged all of our First Nations and created a knowledge and awareness base at a local level that demonstrates the importance of this program's expansion. OFNTSC's Engineering team continues to demonstrate the professionalism of their field by advancing infrastructure projects on behalf of our clients and are recognized as technical experts at provincial and national levels. Water and Wastewater Services remains an extremely important component to community planning and development and these initiatives will continue to require input from all of the OFNTSC's engineering resources.

The services delivered by OFNTSC Engineering Services staff over the past year have been accomplished successfully and I extend my appreciation for their continued efforts in promoting our corporate objectives in 2018-19 for the betterment of all First Nations.



# OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

**Brian Staats**  
*Operations Manager*

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This is our 23rd year in operation. As in the past, the OFNTSC continues to achieve success for First Nations, by delivering quality services in a timely manner. The past year has seen many accomplishments by our staff across all of our services. But I will be highlighting some of our activities in the Operations division of the OFNTSC, for the fiscal year of 2017- 2018.





The OFNTSC's operations services include housing, infrastructure, operations and maintenance (O&M), environment, fire and safety and emergency planning. Under the Operations Division there have been multiple special projects, which have taken place over the past year. Specifically O&M has worked on the First Nations Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (FN PIEVC) Toolkit to assist First Nations with the mitigation affects of climate change on infrastructure. Our environment service continues to roll out our source water protection toolkit to First Nations as well.

In addition to these special projects (mentioned above), the environment service has continued to provide enhanced services in landfill and waste diversion projects. With the support of the OFNTSC Board of Directors the Housing/Infrastructure Services have made a submission to enter into the CMHC Progress Inspection area and currently we have never been busier in day-to-day activities. Emergency planning has now moved into assisting our First Nations with community based training across the region.

The operations service is built on teamwork and we have proven this again this past year. Our service centre's staff members have proven our commitment to our clients. I hope this is visible as all our employees carry this into our client workplaces as well. We will always remain committed to the highest quality services to the clients.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors' Executive Committee for their support and allowing me, as Operational Manager, to bring ideas to the Board of Directors. I would also like to recognize the entire OFNTSC staff for their support and continued dedication to their jobs over the past twenty-two years of the OFNTSC.





# FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

**Brian Katz**  
*Manager of Finance*

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The finance and administrative team has had much success during the past fiscal year. We have focused over the past year to upgrade the accounting and time management software system to current versions and trained staff on the effective use of these systems. This will help to streamline and upgrade financial reporting to senior management and key stakeholders laying the foundation for real time dashboard metrics in future years. Our team was also responsible for updating all corporate policies with current legislation for human resources, governance and administration. This will help provide structure and insight, which will support processes and future policy development.

In the coming year there will be a review and analysis of our company wide hardware and software needs including a new IT infrastructure platform. Our IT system will be redesigned to support the future growth of the organization using current innovative technologies. Staff will be trained to help redefine internal and external communication, data asset management and workflow and financial reporting. We look forward to continuing our support of the staff of the OFNTSC who work with the First Nations and tribal councils we serve.





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## FIVE (5) YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The OFNTSC has recently commenced upon a strategic planning process. The goal of the strategic planning process for the OFNTSC is to create a five (5) year strategic plan that will be implemented by the OFNTSC's management. The strategic plan will be evaluated by the Board of Directors during its implementation to measure the impact the OFNTSC is having on First Nations and tribal councils across Ontario. Work has already begun on the strategic planning process, by engaging staff, stakeholders, and the Board of Directors of the OFNTSC.

While the goal is to create a five year plan, the plan will also look ahead to the next 10 years beyond, to ensure the OFNTSC has organizational stability as it moves forward. The plan will establish strategy and goals for the years 2018-2023. The plan will also explore new and innovative ideas that will achieve organizational stability, mandated core services, client focus and community development. A full version of the strategic plan will be made available to the public after its completion.

## OFNTSC MANDATE REVIEW

The OFNTSC was tasked with a mandate review in 2014 under the resolution 14-11 by the Chiefs-in-Assembly at that time. First Nations Engineering Limited (FNEL) was hired to conduct the mandate review as requested by the Chiefs. FNEL then engaged PTO's, tribal councils and First Nations with a questionnaire that assessed the quality and breadth of services

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offered by the OFNTSC. FNEL also assessed the OFNTSC's organizational and governance structures as well, to ensure every facet of the organization was reviewed.

A final report was available last year in May of 2017, however due to unforeseen circumstances the report was not tabled to Chiefs at the last All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC). The final mandate report has now been accepted by the Chiefs of Ontario, as being final. The report in its entirety can be found in the AOCC Chiefs packages. Recommendations from the mandate review will be incorporated into the five-year strategic plan to ensure all gaps and deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.

# TECHNICAL TASK FORCE REPORT ON DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

In April of 2018, the OFNTSC released its Technical Task Force Report on Drinking Water Regulations in advance of the special chiefs assembly for the Assembly of First Nations in Gatineau, Quebec. The OFNTSC working together with tribal councils and First Nations across Ontario, proceeded to assess what regulations may look like should the Federal Government decide to implement Bill S-8: The Safe Drinking Water Act for First Nations. The goal of the report was to provide Chiefs in Ontario a potential building block for Chiefs to build our own regulations for Ontario First Nations. This report has already been shared, but copies are available if needed. Currently the AFN has passed a resolution (#1 Final) at the last special chiefs assembly in May, to co-draft legislation with Indigenous Services Canada in regards to new drinking water legislation for First Nations.



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# TRI-LATERAL STEERING GROUP

There is a commitment from the current Federal Government to end boil water advisories in First Nations by 2021. A trilateral group in Ontario was created to address Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories (LTDWA) in First Nations with a focus on remote communities. The OFNTSC is working with the federal department of Indigenous Services Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to remove LTDWA's in First Nations in Ontario. The group also includes the Chiefs of Ontario, PTO's representatives, tribal councils, and Health Canada. To date 26 LTDWA's have been removed in 14 communities across Ontario. There are however 48 remaining LTDWA's in 27 communities.

January of 2018 however saw 15 more LTDWA's added to the LTDWA list in Ontario. This was to focus on Indigenous Services Canada funded systems, with a year (1) or more in length of advisory. The Tri Lateral group will be continuing to monitor those communities with continued LTDWA and will be providing support as needed to those First Nations. Quarterly reports are available through the OFNTSC, to chiefs who request them. The OFNTSC will continue to participate in the group to help clear the backlog of LTDWA's.



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# INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY REVIEW

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has recently launched a review of their current operations and maintenance (O&M) policy. In March of this year, ISC working together with the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Engineering Limited convened a workshop to review the O&M policy. The workshop intended to collect feedback from stakeholders on critical factors and information gaps that exist in the current policy framework. Along with staff from ISC and regional representation from First Nations, the workshop provided presentations that ranged from what the existing O&M policy is; how each region allocated funding; how specific First Nations are handling funding from O&M, what is lacking in the current policy and what new gaps First Nations have experienced with the existing policy. A report compiled by FNEL on the workshop is available to Chiefs for reading.

The workshop also produced a set of next steps and potential solutions for Indigenous Services Canada to follow. Participants recommended an asset management approach for ISC's capital and O&M programs, in addition to consulting with Chiefs, development of pilot program for implementation of new policy framework, and creation of a memorandum to the federal cabinet regarding a budget request for the new policy.

# SERVICES REPORTS



## DID YOU KNOW...

*Communications has evolved over the years to include the Annual Report, newsletters, websites, brochures, calendars, promotional materials, and much more!*

### Toronto Service Centre:



**COLIN FRENCH**  
Communications Director



**CORRIE HILL**  
Event Coordinator



# Communications

## SERVICE

The OFNTSC Communications Department is responsible for all external and internal communications of the OFNTSC. This includes liaising with PTO's, Tribal Councils, Large First Nations and Unaffiliated First Nations. As well Communications also liaises with Federal and Provincial ministries, other Aboriginal groups and professional associations as necessary. Communications produces all print material, maintains the OFNTSC Website, produces all OFNTSC events, public relations, and communicates all training and certification opportunities.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Revise communication strategy
- Branding: corporate enhancement of OFNTSC brand
- Update content management system for ofntsc.org; change in design layout
- Social Media maintenance and creation of new accounts
- Annual Report
- Community Engagement Strategy revision
- Updating of tradeshow equipment
- Administration of Student Achievement and Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award applications
- Media Relations

## BACKGROUND

The OFNTSC Communications unit serves as the link between the Corporation and the First Nations and Tribal Councils that the OFNTSC serves. Started in 1997, communications outreach started with just an annual report and a newsletter to disseminate information. Over the years Communications has evolved to take on multiple websites for corporate communications and program/event specific websites in addition to producing brochures, calendars, promotional materials, reports and much more.







# Emergency Planning

## SERVICE

The Emergency Planning Service works to train community control groups (those in charge of community emergency response) to ensure community lives and infrastructure is protected through planning..

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Emergency response training (Provide training to First Nations for Phase's one through four)
- Emergency response field training exercise (Provide technical support to First Nations carrying out field exercises)
- Training of Emergency Planning instructors
- Training materials (research and develop exercise materials)
- Develop 72 hour emergency kits
- Incident Response (provide advisory services to First Nations upon request)
- First Nation emergency response plan review (assist in evaluating existing master emergency response plan with site visit to First Nation)

## BACKGROUND

The Emergency Planning is the latest service to be offered by the OFNTSC, Emergency Planning exists to help prepare First Nations to meet the challenges of an emergency situation. A focus is placed on training community members and emergency services to develop community emergency plans. The Public information Officer's primary responsibility is to coordinate the training sessions and assist and advise First Nations in the development of their emergency plans.





## EMERGENCY PLANNING STRATEGY:

*Phase I:*  
**Risk Assessment**

*Phase II:*  
**Framework**

*Phase III & Review:*  
**Tabletop Exercise**

*Phase IV and Review:*  
**Planning for a Full-Scale Exercise**

*Phases V:*  
**Introduction to Recovery**



### **New Credit Office :**



**KYLE MARTIN**  
Emergency Planning  
Maintenance Officer



**TRACEY ANDERSON**  
Emergency Planning  
Coordinator



**BRANDON STAATS**  
Emergency Planning  
Program Assistant





# Engineering

## SERVICE

The OFNTSC's Engineering Service provides a wide variety of services to First Nations. Those services include project planning, project management, capital planning, terms of reference development, quality assurance, and engineering services for large and small projects (planning, design, construction, commissioning).

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Infrastructure Services (technical and advisory support for unaffiliated, large First Nations and tribal councils)
- Project planning and development
- Administrative Training (advisory services for government funding programs including application processes, contract administration, project management, contractor procurement practices)

## BACKGROUND

The Engineering service has been a part of the OFNTSC since 1996. Assessing there was a demand for qualified First Nations engineers to work with First Nations in Ontario on capital projects, OFNTSC created the Quality Assurance initiative. The Quality Assurance initiative quickly grew to include other engineering functions such as tendering and contract administration to terms of reference development for large and small engineering projects.

### DID YOU KNOW...



*OFNTSC created the Quality Assurance Initiative to keep up to the demand for qualified First Nations.*







## DID YOU KNOW...

SINCE  
**1996**

*Engineering services have been a part of the OFNTSC since 1996.*

### **Toronto Service Centre:**



**DEREK HILL**  
Senior Engineer



**ROBERT OLIVIER**  
Water and Wastewater Engineer



**TRICIA HAMILTON**  
Water and Wastewater Engineer





# Environment

## SERVICE

The OFNTSC 's Environment Services works to assist First Nations and tribal councils with environmental assessment processes, solid waste management, contaminated site assessment and remediation, community and land use planning, minor capital submission requirements for environmental related projects, environmental funding opportunities, and source water protection/ water quality initiatives.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Focus on landfill requirements for First Nations (workshops)
- Solid Waste Management
- Solid Waste Diversion
- Environmental Assessment Service (related to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012)
- Source Water Protection and Water quality (workshops, terms of reference development)
- Contaminated sites and remediation

## BACKGROUND

The OFNTSC works closely with First Nations and Tribal Councils to provide a wide variety of environmental advisory services. Started in 1996 as an environmental health study, the Environment Service has grown over the past 15 years to meet the evolving needs of First Nations in Ontario. From past initiatives such as Earth Keepers training and Energy Pathfinder services, our current training and project specific technical advisory services has expanded to include a wide range of areas.







## DID YOU KNOW...

SINCE  
**1996**

*Environment services started in 1996 as an environment health study and has grown significantly over the past 15 years to meet the evolving needs of First Nations in Ontario.*

### Thunder Bay Centre:



**DENEEN BRIGHAM**  
Environmental  
Scientist

### Toronto Service Centre:



**STEPHANIE ALLEN**  
Environmental  
Scientist



**CLEMENTINA  
CONSENS**  
Jr. Environmental  
Scientist







# Climate Change

## SERVICE

The Climate Change service of the OFNTSC works with First Nations and tribal councils in Ontario to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, assist First Nations with the development of community energy plans, renewable energy studies, build community capacity, and inform First Nations and tribal councils about Ontario's climate change mitigation policies.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Energy Planning and implementation training
- Renewable energy feasibility studies (2-3 communities)
- Energy planning pilot project
- Carbon offset feasibility studies
- Climate Change Service information sharing
- Assist communities with renewable energy project implementation
- Visit communities to share information on energy conservation

## BACKGROUND

The Climate Change service of the OFNTSC was created to assist First Nations and tribal councils in Ontario, with the effects of climate change in Ontario. The service was originally created in partnership with Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR) in 2016. The successfulness of the service has seen the service partner, now with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to continue the work of climate change mitigation.

### DID YOU KNOW...

IMPLEMENTED IN  
**2016**

*The Climate Change Program was implemented at OFNTSC in July 2016 to implement the newly established program.*





#### ***Toronto Service Centre:***



**SAMANTHA ROWE**  
Energy Planning Assistant

#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

***There are 3 KEY AREAS  
of the Climate Change program:***

- 1. Carbon Cap and Trade***
- 2. Energy Planning***
- 3. Renewable Energy Feasibility***

#### ***Thunder Bay Service Centre:***



**BILL MALONEY**  
Climate Change  
Specialist



**ROOPA RAKSHIT**  
Energy Planning  
Specialist



**MARIANO ARRIAGA**  
Energy Specialist





# Fire, Safety & Firefighting

## SERVICE

The Fire and Safety Service of the OFNTSC works with volunteer fire departments and fire prevention officers from tribal councils to ensure First Nations have current information as it relates to fire and safety initiatives. Services provided by Fire and Safety are: public fire protection and prevention in accordance with the National Building Code, building code interpretation for fire related issues, emergency vehicle specification review, community fire prevention issues, volunteer fire department administration, and fire equipment purchase review.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Fire protection (technical support for First Nations conducting needs surveys and policy support)
- Fire prevention (setup library for distribution of fire prevention materials)
- Coordinate regional fire safety poster contest for First Nation students from grades 1-12
- Submit fire equipment bulk purchase proposal for First Nations to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)(provide advisory services for all fire equipment purchased)
- Fire inspection services (provide advisory service to First Nations on obtaining specialized services from ISC)
- Trainer contract services agreement (negotiate with senior training officer for continued training services in emergency planning)







## BACKGROUND

The Fire and Safety Program of the OFNTSC first started in 1995 to address the fire and safety deficiencies that many First Nations homes and buildings. Site visits of community buildings and homes were seen as a need that is trying to be addressed by the OFNTSC. The Fire and Safety Program had expanded to training of First Nations volunteer fire departments as well as disseminating important fire safety prevention material.



**Toronto  
Service Centre:**



**SIOBHAN KENNEDY**  
Fire and Safety  
Coordinator





# Fuel System Management Program

## SERVICE

The Fuel Systems Management (FSM) Service of the OFNTSC works with First Nation owned fuel dispensary operations and bulk fuel storage facilities. The FSM service offers fuel tank best practice inspections (home and commercial), liaison with Provincial and Federal ministries, compliance with federal legislation in regards to fuel tank storage, emergency fuel spill response: training and plan development, fuel equipment support and proper fuel handling and management techniques.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Emergency Services (working to provide fuel spill kits for First Nations in addition to technical guidance when fuel spills occur)
- Technical and advisory support
- Bulk fuel system assessments
- Regional bulk fuel system spill awareness training at six (6) locations
- Review of First Nation infrastructure development plans containing fuel related components as needed with engineering support
- Provide presentations at regional and local gatherings
- Increase information available to First Nations in Ontario

### DID YOU KNOW...

SINCE  
**1998**

*Fuel Systems Management started in 1998 to address the growing need of trained fuel handlers in First Nations across Ontario.*





## BACKGROUND

The Fuel Systems Management Program started in 1998 to address the growing need of trained fuel handlers in First Nations across Ontario. Initially the Fuel Systems Management focused on training of fuel handlers in remote First Nations, but has since expanded into fuel tank site visits for homes and commercial uses, emergency fuel spill response training and development, code compliance assessment and fuel transfer equipment support and safe fuel handling practices at the Gas Pumps for all First Nations in Ontario. Fuel Systems Management Program also provides technical advice to Tribal Councils along with Unaffiliated First Nations. Providing information along with advice in regards to fuel systems, legislative commitments and private sector contact information.

### DID YOU KNOW...



*Fuel Systems Management assists communities with spill kit support when needed.*

### **Thunder Bay Service Centre:**



**DOUG STUART**  
Fuel Systems  
Management Trainer







# Housing

## SERVICE

The Housing Service of the OFNTSC works directly with community housing programs and tribal council housing advisors to ensure First Nations have access to current information. The OFNTSC's Housing service provides services for training and capacity development (building code, better building practices, energy efficiency including R-2000, EnerGuide, Energy Star, and Energy Advisor), housing policy review and analysis, building code interpretation and advice, assistance in research and development of business plans for housing, and funding proposals. The OFNTSC Housing Service also provides technical advice to the AFN Chief's technical committee on housing and the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing. Housing additionally liaisons with various government agencies regarding housing programs, funding, and special initiatives.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Building code training (housing training schedule based on needs of First Nation clients, targeted to First Nations looking to become certified with Ontario Building Officers Association)
- Training: CMHC workshops (expected standing offer to work with CMHC to continue workshops for First Nations)
- Training: Natural Resources Canada (examine training opportunities related to energy efficiency for First Nations)
- Training: First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) (expected standing offer to work with FNMHF First Nations who are participating in the FNMHF)
- Housing policy development (make accessible and usable housing policy documents)
- First Nations Housing Conference Working Group
- Committee Participation: AFN Chief's technical committee on housing and the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing





## BACKGROUND

The Housing Program is an original initiative established at inception of OFNTSC. The Housing Program began by providing housing inspections in First Nations until demand outpaced resources available. It was then that the Housing Program took on an expanded role in providing technical advisory services in all areas of housing to all First Nations and Tribal Councils.



**Thunder Bay  
Service Centre:**



**GRACE MARTINEAU**  
Housing Advisor





# Infrastructure

## SERVICE

The Infrastructure Specialist Service assists unaffiliated First Nations (UFN) (First Nations without a tribal council affiliation) and tribal councils with inspection services of new and existing homes in First Nations. Specifically the Infrastructure Service provides code compliance on residential homes, inspections of existing housing stock, inspections for home adaptations for senior's independence, indoor air quality assessments and mold assessments in homes or buildings on a case-by-case basis. Infrastructure also provides support on Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) report systems such as ICMS/CAIS/ACRS and reporting back to ISC. Additionally Infrastructure can assist with five (5) year capital plan submissions and support for major capital projects.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- First Nation reporting (ISC reporting – ICMS, ACRS and FNIIP)
- Inspections for unaffiliated First Nations and tribal councils (800 Inspections)
- Housing Needs survey (for UFN's)
- Fire inspection services
- Training certification of unaffiliated First Nation inspectors

## BACKGROUND

The Infrastructure Service was one of the inaugural services offered to First Nations and Tribal Councils in 1995. The Infrastructure Program originally began as just an inspection service for First Nations not affiliated with a tribal council. Infrastructure has evolved over the years to offer training for building inspectors, introduction of new building techniques and construction and support for ISC reporting systems.







**Thunder Bay  
Service Centre:**



**JONATHAN GREGG**  
Infrastructure Specialist

**Toronto  
Service Centre:**



**THOMAS NORTHARDT**  
Senior Infrastructure  
Specialist



**CHARLES PETAHTEGOOSE**  
Infrastructure Specialist



**CLARENCE MEEKIS**  
Infrastructure Specialist



**CHASITY TOULOUSE**  
Infrastructure Specialist



**NATHAN HILL**  
Infrastructure Specialist





# Operations & Maintenance

## SERVICE

The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Service of the OFNTSC provides vital support to First Nations infrastructure and communities by means of asset management. The O&M Service provides support for the Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS), Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS), ACRS Terms of Reference, Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS), Capital Management Database (CMDB), Maintenance Management Systems (MMS), Asset Management Systems (AMS), Conditional Assessment & Housing Database (CAHD), O&M Forecasting Model for Water & Wastewater facilities, Tangible Capital Assets (TCA), updates on Government O&M policies, reporting requirements, and Public Sector Accounting Board 3150 (PSAB3150). The O&M Service can also provide support for First Nations in recording, tracking, assessments and evaluation of current capital assets; and First Nations asset assessments and methods for improving asset O&M funding levels.

### DID YOU KNOW...



*O&M provides support on the various databases and asset management systems that ISC maintains.*

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- O&M liaison for improvements on reporting guide (Support First Nations in their reporting requirements for impacts on Indigenous Services Canada)
- O&M asset management strategy, education and awareness (training to be provided to First Nations on funding, reporting tools and best practices)
- Maintenance Management Plan (development of templates for standard and routine maintenance, samples of industry best practices, ensure maintenance management plan complies with current reporting guide)





## DID YOU KNOW...

SINCE  
**1995**

*O&M sector was one of the first services to be offered by the OFNTSC during its creation in 1995.*



## BACKGROUND

The Operations and Maintenance program was one of the first services to be offered by the OFNTSC during its creation in 1995. Operations and Maintenance originally assisted First Nations with reporting requirements to ISC. Today O&M provides support on the various databases and asset management systems that ISC maintains. In addition to reporting, O&M also reviews community infrastructure models to ensure assets maintain peak efficiency.

### *Toronto Service Centre:*



**ELMER LICKERS**  
Senior O&M Advisor







# Water & Wastewater

## SERVICE

The OFNTSC's Water and Wastewater Service provides a wide variety of services to First Nations for water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure. Those services include project planning and development, capital planning, terms of reference development, quality assurance, terms of reference development, technical advisory services, training and engineering services for large and small projects (planning, design, construction, commissioning).

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Water and Wastewater Service (technical advisory support to First Nations on water and wastewater treatment facilities)
- Provide community specific technical oversight on water/wastewater projects
- Participate in tri-lateral group steering committee
- Quantification of water and wastewater systems in First Nations (to achieve a understanding of where funding support is required to improve water and wastewater systems to meet regulatory requirements)

## BACKGROUND

The Water and Wastewater Service originally began in 1996 as a quality assurance initiative to ensure Ontario First Nations were all receiving the same level of service from the OFNTSC, and site visits of First Nation and Tribal Council technical services. These guiding principles helped shape the future of the Water and Wastewater service. Today Water and Wastewater has incorporated engineering services, as well as serving as a step-by-step project planning service from inception to completion for water and wastewater related projects.





## DID YOU KNOW...



*The Water and Wastewater sector incorporates engineering services into its offerings.*

## DID YOU KNOW...

BEGAN IN  
**1996**

*The Water and Wastewater program originally began in 1996 as a quality assurance initiative to ensure Ontario First Nations were all receiving the same level of service from the OFNTSC.*

### Toronto Service Centre:



**DEREK HILL**  
Senior Engineer



**ROBERT OLIVIER**  
Water and Wastewater  
Engineer



**TRICIA HAMILTON**  
Water and Wastewater  
Engineer





# Water & Wastewater Specialist

## SERVICE

The Water and Wastewater Service works with First Nation public works and operators to create maintenance management plans for water and wastewater facilities. This service specifically focuses on unaffiliated First Nations (UFN). Services include under the Water and Wastewater Specialist service include water and wastewater quality regulation review, operations and maintenance plans, sampling and test of water and waste effluent, record keeping and reporting, training plans for operators, safety awareness and emergency response plans for water and wastewater systems.

## WORKPLAN PRIORITIES 2018-2019

- Operations and Maintenance technical advisory services (provide technical advisory service to UFN's with O&M issues)
- Distribution training - O&M issues (provide specific distribution system training to First Nations with on-the-job training and CEU's)
- Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP – administrative service for 2018 -2019 fiscal year)
- Indigenous Services Canada Operator Training Subsidy (assist UFN's with the development of operator training plans)

## BACKGROUND

The Water and Wastewater Specialist service began in 2014. The service was created in response to the awarding of the CRTP contract to another service provider. At that time the OFNTSC still required capacity to assist First Nations with their water plant operators needs. The OFNTSC then created the position of the water/wastewater specialist to assist First Nations with training and operational plans for communal water and wastewater systems.







## DID YOU KNOW...



*The Water and Wastewater specialist provides on-site inspections and recommendations to First Nations with water treatment facilities.*



### Toronto Service Centre:



**RICHARD SHAWANDA**  
Water and Wastewater  
Engineer



**NOAH PAUL**  
CRTP Trainer



**IAN FORTIN**  
CRTP Trainer



**JACK BROWN**  
CRTP Trainer



**GERALD MCGREGOR**  
CRTP Trainer





# 2018 FIRST NATIONS WATER SYMPOSIUM

The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) held its 2018 First Nations Water Symposium (FNWS) in Niagara Falls, ON from May 15-16, 2018 at the Sheraton on the Falls. Over 250 delegates from First Nations and tribal councils across Ontario attended the fifth (5) installment of the FNWS. The theme of this year's symposium was "Tapping into Sustainable Solutions". Hosting of the event in their traditional territory, the Mississaugas of the New Credit welcomed the OFNTSC and our





delegates to their territory. Gary Parker, of the Seneca Nation provided the opening prayer and the Little Creek drummers opened the FNWS with an honour song; and with that the FNWS commenced.

After the opening ceremonies had concluded, the OFNTSC quickly set the scene for a panel of presentations on the State of Water for Ontario First Nations. First to present was water and wastewater engineer Tricia Hamilton who spoke about the tri-lateral steering group and water/wastewater needs assessment being conducted by the OFNTSC. The tri-lateral steering group update indicated that to date, 26 boil water advisories have been lifted in 14 communities across Ontario. The tri-lateral group was created in response to the Federal government's promise to remove all boil water advisories in First Nations across Canada by the year 2021. Additional presentations were given by OFNTSC staff on topics such as source water protection by Stephanie Allen, water task force report update by Glen Goodman, and a operations and maintenance cost comparison and gap analysis by Elmer Lickers.

Water plant operators who attend the symposium, participated in Continuing Education Units (CEU's) training in the areas of chemical and bacteriological tests in a water plant, SCADA for First Nations operators, and operate and maintain disinfection systems. In total 50 operators participated in the CEU training. Day one concluded with breakout sessions on a variety of topics that included source water protection workshop, First Nations Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (FNPIEVC)/asset management workshop,



extending the life of damaged or corroding structures, water is life: water security for First Nation citizens, and Canada's Marine life safety systems and ocean protection plan from an Ontario perspective by the Canadian Coast Guard.

Day two (2) began with additional breakout sessions for delegates featuring continued training for the FNPIEVC/asset management workshop, groundwater supply-construction, operation and maintenance, managing drinking water systems, making connections: supporting First Nations municipal peer networks, Canada-Ontario-First Nations pilot to improve drinking water quality in Alderville First Nation, Ways to reduce your O&M costs at your water treatment plant, the Mohwaks of the Bay of Quinte: Water







treatment plant, water first internship: Mnidoo Mnising partnership pilot, Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association of First Nations water maintenance project and a presentation on trihalomethanes/Wasauksing/Whitefish River.

The 2018 FNWS closed with remarks from the OFNTSC's President Wes Bova, Executive Director Melanie Debassige, and Regional Chief Isadore Day. Regional Chief Day commended the work undertaken by community plant operators, First Nations, and tribal councils to achieve the goal of clean drinking water for First Nations.

The OFNTSC would like to thank all of the delegates and presenters who made the Symposium a huge success. The OFNTSC would also like to acknowledge the sponsors for the event Indigenous Services Canada, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (Ontario), Ontario Clean Water Agency, and Vector Construction.





# 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - TECHNATIONS

Thunder Bay, ON – Aug. 24, 2017: The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) hosted its 23rd Annual Conference in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn from August 21-24, 2017. The OFNTSC branded the 23rd annual conference as TechNations 2017 Conference & Tradeshow + Student Fundraiser. The conference attracted guests from across the province to engage with First Nations infrastructure professionals who are responsible for maintaining and operating community infrastructure.

The OFNTSC Conference week began with a fundraiser for the OFNTSC's Student Achievement Awards/Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award at the Fort William Golf and Country Club. 24 teams came out to support First Nations students in science and technology fields in post-secondary education. Teams of the day were treated to a variety of on-course prize competitions and dinner after their round of golf. The OFNTSC would like to thank everyone who participated in the tournament.





# TECHNATIONS

## 2017 CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW + STUDENT FUNDRAISER

TechNations 2017 kicked off on Aug 22, 2017 to 226 delegates in attendance at the Valhalla Inn. After a welcome address by Wes Bova, President of the Board of Directors, delegates entered into breakout sessions with streams for housing, infrastructure, climate change, environment and water and wastewater. Topics of the first day included infrastructure planning, water distribution system emergencies, source water protection, innovative housing development, contaminated sites, and impacts and challenges of climate change policies. As the first day wound down, following presentations the Aboriginal Housing Protective Association offered a hospitality suite as a networking event for delegates.

Day two of TechNations 2017 saw exhibitors setup in the main ballroom for a tradeshow for delegates. 32 exhibitors were on hand for the day, while demonstrations of common infrastructure issues and solutions were provided to delegates who attended the tradeshow. Demonstrations included water filtration in a box, pump in a box, airtightness testing, and an emergency plan tabletop exercise. Day two ended with a dinner to honour the 2017 Student Achievement Award





Winners William Chukra, Walter Moonias, Clarence L. Meekis, and Derrick Kamanga Award Winner Nicole Corbiere. Guests and winners were treated to a comedy performance by Anishinabe comedian Ryan McMahon to end the night.

The last day of the conference began with breakout sessions on housing, emergency planning, operations and maintenance, energy, engineering and water and wastewater. The last day wrapped up with closing statements by OFNTSC management and Wes Bova to end the 23rd Annual OFNTSC Conference.

The poster features a collage of six individuals representing various technical professions. The text 'TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS BUILDING OUR NATIONS FIRST' is prominently displayed in the upper center. Below this, the names and titles of the individuals are listed: 'water plant operator', 'band administrator', 'public works manager', 'fuel handler', 'environmental technician', and 'housing manager'. The main title 'TECHNATIONS 2017' is followed by 'CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW + STUDENT FUNDRAISER'. A row of icons representing different technical fields is shown below the title. At the bottom, the dates 'AUG 21-24' and location 'Valhalla Inn | Thunder Bay' are listed on the left, and the hashtag '#TechNations2017' and website 'www.technations.ca' are on the right.

**TECHNICAL  
PROFESSIONALS  
BUILDING OUR  
NATIONS FIRST**

water plant operator  
band administrator  
public works manager  
fuel handler  
environmental technician  
housing manager

**TECHNATIONS**  
**2017** CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW  
+ STUDENT FUNDRAISER

**AUG 21-24**  
Valhalla Inn | Thunder Bay

**#TechNations2017**  
**www.technations.ca**



The OFNTSC would like to acknowledge the funders who supported this event, including Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada, First Nations Market Housing Fund, Aboriginal Housing Protective Association, Colliers Project Leaders, Vector Construction, Hydro One, and the Ontario Clean Water Agency. Without the support of the Federal ministries and private companies the OFNTSC's Annual Conference would not have been possible.



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# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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For the past 23 years the OFNTSC has supported First Nations students in their pursuit of post-secondary education in the fields of science and technology. This year our tradition of supporting First Nations students continues. We proudly introduce to you the 2017 winners of the OFNTSC Student Achievement Award (SAA) Winners. And the winners are...



William Chukra

## WILLIAM CHUKRA

William Chukra is a member of Lac Seul First Nation and is studying science at the University of Western Ontario. Chukra comes from a large family that has a history of working with First Nations people and communities. When he's not participating in sporting events for First Nations, Chukra spends his time volunteering to fix roofs in his community. Chukra plans to finish his bachelor degree in science before completing a masters degree. Chukra said "I wish to take my knowledge gained from my education and apply it in a career path that will allow me to, at my very best, better the lives of First Nations people".





Walter Moonias

## WALTER MONIAS

Walter Moonias hails from Sandy Lake First Nation, and is studying Civil Engineering Technology at Confederation College. Walter comes from a family of five with two brothers. When Walter is not visiting family, he is helping other First Nation students from Sandy Lake get adjusted to life in Thunder Bay as they prepare for post-secondary education. Moonias's goal is to complete his education in civil engineering and then apply his knowledge to help First Nations with housing. Moonias said "I have seen a lot of issues with housing in my community. After I'm done my education I want to take that knowledge and improve the housing conditions in First Nations."



Clarence Meekis

## CLARENCE MEEKIS

Our final SAA winner is Clarence L. Meekis. Clarence is studying Civil Engineering Technology and is from Deer Lake First Nation in northwestern Ontario. Clarence spent the last summer working with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in their Infrastructure Directorate. Assisting with projects in a variety of communities, Meekis has made a variety of friendships across the province, while also seeing the living conditions that First Nations in Ontario are dealing with. In the future Clarence hopes to apply his strengths and skills to the well being of First Nations in Ontario.



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# DERRICK KAMANGA MEMORIAL AWARD

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The Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award was created to recognize Ontario First Nations student's pursuit of engineering degrees from recognized universities and colleges. Derrick Kamanga was an employee of the OFNTSC for 20+ years before his retirement. During his time as an engineer for the OFNTSC, Derrick was recognized for many achievements including the multiple barrier approach to drinking water, a seat on the Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards set up by the Ontario Government in the aftermath of the Walkerton Crisis, and much more. The award was created to honour Derrick's contribution to Ontario First Nations and his work to bring clean drinking water to First Nations. The 2017 Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award Winner is:



Nicole Corbiere

**Nicole Corbiere** is studying Chemical Engineering Technology Lab & Process Control at Cambrian College. Nicole is 2017 winner of the Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award for engineering. She is a member of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. A life long resident of Wikwemikong, and graduate of the reserve high school, Corbiere comes from a family that has made public service and community an important part of their lives. In the future Corbiere hopes to become a Chemical Engineer to help improve the environment within First Nations and Metis communities. She is also determined to help Wikwemikong maintain their clean drinking water.



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# STUDENT CLASSIC

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**May 14, 2018** – After many months of planning by the OFNTSC’s golf committee the OFNTSC held its annual Student Classic (SC) to raise funds for First Nations students in science and technology fields of study. The SC as its become known, was held on May 14th, 2018 at the Thundering Waters Golf Course in Niagara Falls, ON. The OFNTSC had 98 golfers come out and support this worthy cause. To date over \$65,000 has been raised for First Nation students from the SC.

Golfers of the day were treated to beautiful warm sunny weather for the SC. Competitions on the course ranged from hole-in-one, longest drive and the addition of speed golf (who can complete the hole the fastest). Participants had an afternoon of laughter and fun while supporting students. Winners of this year’s tournament were John Montour and team. Thanks to all of our teams who came out and played in the tournament.

The OFNTSC would like to acknowledge our sponsors of this event. Our corporate sponsors this year are: Nokiiwin Tribal Council, First Nations Engineering Services Ltd., Watson Parojcic Financial, MTS Native Services, The Ad/venture Group, Anish Branding, the International Brotherhood of Iron Workers, and JR Cousins Consultants. Without your support our tournament would not have been possible.

This year’s golfers of the day and our corporate sponsors raised over \$6000 dollars to support the four (4) Student Achievement Awards and one (1) Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award. We thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause, and we look forward to seeing you next year on the course! For more information on our SC or SAA, please visit [www.ofntsc.org](http://www.ofntsc.org).







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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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As a member of the of the Ontario First Nations community, the OFNTSC consistently looks at different ways of supporting communal activities for First Nations. By engaging our communities the OFNTSC intends to support efforts that ensure healthy and safe communities for all to enjoy. In this spirit we at the OFNTSC look to give back to those communities who we serve. Below is a small list of the community engagement projects that the OFNTSC has participated in over the past year, and how the OFNTSC participated in the event.

## LITTLE NHL

The OFNTSC was the official puck sponsor for this past year's tournament. Pucks were donated to the tournament in lieu of a booth at the event. Over 1000 pucks were created and distributed to participants of the tournament. The OFNTSC created two pucks one for game play, and small weighted blue puck for youth under the age of 7.

## NATIONAL FIRST NATIONS WATER SYMPOSIUM

The OFNTSC took part in the National Water Symposium (NWS) as an exhibitor and presenter during the NWS. Over the three days of the event, delegates across the country heard about the many services the Corporation offers, while highlighting success stories from Ontario First Nations. Additionally the President of the Corporation participated in a panel discussion about water initiatives across Canada.





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## FIRST NATIONS HOUSING CONFERENCE

The OFNTSC participated in the First Nations Housing conference as an organizer, sponsor, exhibitor and presenter. The conference focuses on engaging First Nation housing programs to think about design, construction and maintenance of homes on-reserve. The OFNTSC distributed 72hr emergency kits to delegates who attended the conference.

## IMAGINE**NATIVE** FILM AND MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL

The ImagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival runs in October in Toronto, ON. Over the course of a week the festival draws over 20,000 viewers for Indigenous films and media from across the world. The OFNTSC is a slide sponsor for the festival.

Community engagement will always be a priority for the OFNTSC. By engaging with our communities and people, the OFNTSC aims to incorporate the ideas that will make the Corporation a valued community partner to the people and communities we serve.

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**HAVE AN EVENT  
YOU WOULD LIKE US  
TO ATTEND?**

**CONTACT COLIN FRENCH,  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER AT:  
[CFRENCH@OFNTSC.ORG](mailto:CFRENCH@OFNTSC.ORG)  
OR  
CALL (416) 709 8738.**

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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Below is a list of upcoming events that the OFNTSC will be holding over the next few months:

## **ALL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Niagara Falls, ON  
Hilton Niagara Falls Fallsview  
September 18-19, 2018

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS/DERRICK KAMANGA**

## **MEMORIAL AWARD APPLICATIONS**

Deadline: July 20, 2018 – 4:30pm

## **FUEL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

## **NORTH SPIRIT - JULY 11TH**

## **KASHECHEWAN - JULY 25TH**

## **BEARSKIN LAKE - AUGUST 15TH**

## **WIKEMIKONG UNCEDED INDIAN RESERVE - AUGUST 22**

## **FORT ALBANY - AUGUST 29TH**

## **BIG TROUT LAKE - SEPTEMBER 12TH**

## **DEER LAKE - SEPTEMBER 26TH**





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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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CAT LAKE - OCTOBER 17TH

KETTLE POINT - OCTOBER 31ST

HIAWATHA - NOVEMBER 14TH

SERPENT RIVER - NOVEMBER 28TH

FORT WILLIAM - DECEMBER 12TH

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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER AT  
416 651 1443 EXT. 256.

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