



Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership

It's Christmas 2021, and we want to give gifts that build the world we all need.



Faith communities across Canada have, since 2013, oriented our Christmas Gift Giving to respond to the URGENT need for water in Indigenous communities – a basic human right.

The uncovering of unmarked graves on the sites of former residential schools across Canada has brought to light truths that Canadians have been reluctant to see about the cost of Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples and the need for truth and reconciliation going forward. This is not just part of Canada's past; it is a truth at the centre of Canada's present. We hear from Indigenous leaders that they are hearing of youth suicides and overdoses on a daily basis. The resources that they would normally bring in to help communities cope, including pastoral care, can't be brought in because of COVID. "The reality is that we're overcome by grief and difficulty," says Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald.

We can respond. Our gifts can take concrete steps toward showing Indigenous brothers and sisters that they are not forgotten and that their lives matter.

Tell the people you love this year how much they mean to you by saving on the presents and giving instead to **"The Water Partnership."** Then tell the story of what this living gift makes possible!

"Anchored in God's faithfulness, we have sought to respond to an URGENT need in Indigenous communities. Systemic brutalities built into Indigenous life have meant that basic needs, like access to clean water, are not being met. It is this reality which has motivated our response."

*– Archbishop Mark MacDonald,
Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada*



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Since 2013, Pimatisiwin Nipi (Living Waters) Group has partnered with the Northern Ontario community of Pikangikum, Ontario and with The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund to install safe drinking water and indoor plumbing in the homes that need it the most.

This year, our work expands to begin the **Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership**. Mishamikoweesh includes 25 First Nations in Northern Ontario and Manitoba, across which water safety is a critical need.

Mishamikoweesh leaders identify clean water as central to their vision of a good life for their people. In response, this program will:

- Engage Mishamikoweesh leaders, and with PWRDF support, to develop Indigenous-led, high impact water projects across these Northern communities.
- Work toward the goal of Indigenous communities being able to access fresh and safe drinking water, prioritizing their connection to the abundance of the land.

Your gift-giving this Christmas can be part of building this partnership and a path forward where all Canadians have access to safe, clean, living water.

To donate **online**, visit www.pwrdf.org/water-project and click on the button at the top of the page. You can also **call PWRDF** toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 (leave a message and your call will be returned) or send your cheque marked **Mishamikoweesh Water Project** to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2.

If you prefer to **give through your church**, designate your offering to the PWRDF Mishamikoweesh Water Project. Your church will issue your tax receipt (or include your gift in your annual giving total) and forward your donation to PWRDF.

PWRDF Charitable Registration No. **BN 8664 34640 RR0001**



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