

## Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership

**Water is Life.** Water is dignity. Water is opportunity. Water is justice.

Lack of clean, running water impacts physical and mental health, hygiene and access to education. We give the Gift of Water as one concrete way of responding to youth suicide in Indigenous Communities.

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There is an easily mapped connection between the individual and communal lives so shattered by residential schools in past generations and the grave injustice of so many Indigenous communities in Canada living under boil-water advisories and without running water. There is an easily mapped connection between the injustice of this racialized reality in a country as richly resourced as ours and the astronomically high suicide rates that also exist in these communities.

We can respond. The concept is simple:

- This year, buy one less gift for Christmas.
- Give that money towards a living gift: water!
- Join a national movement ensure everyone in this richly blessed country of Canada has access to water.

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!

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*PWRDF's Indigenous Program Advisory Committee (IPAC) was created to hear from Indigenous leadership in articulating their needs, as well as the initiatives in which they want support. In every need named, there is a connection back to this basic desire to save the lives of young people. “They come into the world as light,” elder Ellen Cook Virginia noted, “And because of circumstances, their light goes out.” Their light, their voices, their potential leadership—all being swallowed up by a voracious hopelessness consuming these young lives.*

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In 2013, Pimatisiwin Nipi (Living Waters) Group began a partnership 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. In 2021, the project expanded to become the **Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership**. The Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh of the Anglican Church of Canada includes 25 First Nations in Northern Ontario and Manitoba, where access to clean water is extremely challenging.

Mishamikoweesh leadership identify clean water as central to their vision of a good life for their people. In response to the needs articulated by Mishamikoweesh leadership, our 2022 goal is to raise \$150,000 towards a water truck in Kingfisher Lake.

Kingfisher Lake has a population of 500 people on reserve, most of whom access water through tanks attached to their homes and a water delivery system from the treatment plant. Roads are rough, wear and tear on the vehicles is significant, repair parts are hard to come by, and the population is growing. A new water truck will significantly increase the reliability of clean, running water in this community.

PWRDF hopes to use funds raised for this work to encourage support from government and non government agencies in addressing and providing funds for long-term water needs in northern communities.

**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](http://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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