

THE MISHAMIKOWEESH WATER PARTNERSHIP

PIMATIZIWIN NIPI
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Pimatiziwin Nipi (Living Waters)– Who We Are

Pimatiziwin Nipi was formed in 2011 as a response to the reality lack of access to clean, running water in Canada is stridently racialized, affecting a disproportionate number of Indigenous people and Indigenous communities. We are a network of concerned Christian communities who want to walk the road of reconciliation with Indigenous people in our country and whose focus on securing safe, clean, running water for all Canadians is centred on these pillars:

1. Education
2. Advocacy
3. Strategic Giving
4. Partnership

The Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership

In 2013, we 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 was 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.

The water truck has been built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks in Winnipeg, an enterprise that has a strong and reputable connection to Indigenous communities. The water truck is now available, final invoicing is in place and plans are in place for the truck to travel to Kingfisher Lake. The truck will be transported to Kingfisher Lake most likely on a long 53-foot flatbed truck... Winnipeg > T Bay > Sioux Lookout > Pickle Lake > Kingfisher Lake FN. There would be a

five-week window in which trucks and provisions get sent up to Kingfisher Lake in February or March, depending on the ice roads. Chief and Council have committed to raising the additional amount for the water truck (approximately another \$80,000) from their own Council funds and / or a supplementary ISC contribution.

In November of this year, we were updated on the progress of our fundraising goal of \$150,000 for this project. With a grant of \$25K from Atlas CopCo, we stood at \$115,000 of the \$150,000 we needed to raise. Confident that the extra \$35,000 would come in by the end of the year, PWRDF gave the leadership of Kingfisher Lake a letter of commitment that the funding will indeed be coming and disbursed for the water truck. A funding agreement was developed and reviewed by Council, signed on January 12 with a disbursement of \$150,000 sent in the following week.



Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF, with the new water truck.

Pikangikum

Although PWRDF no longer is receiving funds toward the work in Pikangikum, money from funds previously raised continues in the development of clean, running water and indoor plumbing in the community's homes. PWRDF has met with staff from Finance and Capital as well as a representative from a consulting firm supporting Chief and Council on financial accountability across their many projects. The hope is that there will soon be opportunities to draw on the remaining amount of \$250,000 for Pikangikum and leverage it with another sum of money, a federal grant for housing and water infrastructure renovation. PWRDF is also being asked to consider supporting a feasibility study that is near completion for Pikangikum outlining a plan for Water and Wastewater infrastructure improvements across the community. PWRDF may be able to work with the new Chief (Chief Shirley Keeper) and others she may wish to appoint on a focused advocacy strategy with specific asks of Indigenous Services Canada for implementation. There could be important advocacy messages along with increased awareness and engagement of the many individuals, churches and community groups supporting Pikangikum First Nation. This opportunity is in development and is dependent on the timeline within the community and

PWRDF's Leadership

We are blessed to have PWRDF as our partner in enabling connecting with Indigenous communities, identifying and implementing projects, and collecting and dispersing funds raised. PWRDF has been steadfast in using their impressive expertise and their specialization in leading small high-impact community-led initiatives to make this group's work possible. Their partnerships with Indigenous Canada extend beyond Mishamikoweesh and Pimatziwin Nipi and Indigenous Responsive Grant program offers funding for small Indigenous-led projects in the areas of safe water, youth engagement, climate action and community health. 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.

Any money raised in 2023 beyond the \$35,000 to complete our commitment to the water truck will go toward the Indigenous Responsive Grant program.

Thank You

Many of the communities in our network focus their fundraising efforts for our work through the Advent Conspiracy—inviting people to give the Gift of Water to their loved ones in lieu of more standard Christmas present offerings. Thank you to every person across our community who supported the Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership this Advent, or through the year. Thank you for your offerings of prayer, financial support, leadership, and helping to spread the word about this important work. Through your faithfulness, we are confident that we will have raised the \$35,000 to which our network committed and that Kingfisher Lake will see the arrival of their new water truck in the coming months of early 2024!

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***

