



Concurrent Session on Proposed updates to the Centralized Drinking Water Protocol, Tendering Policy Review & Infrastructure Modernization

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Agenda

Proposed updates to the Centralized Drinking Water Protocol

Tendering Policy Review

Infrastructure Modernization

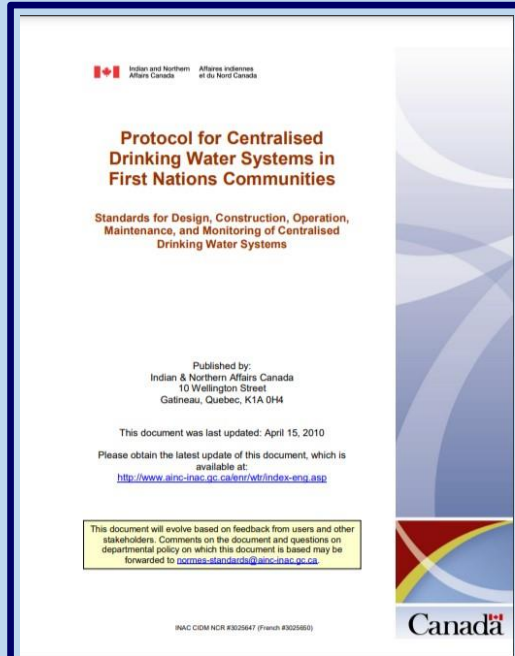




Proposed updates to the Centralized Drinking Water Protocol



Protocol for Centralised Drinking Water Systems

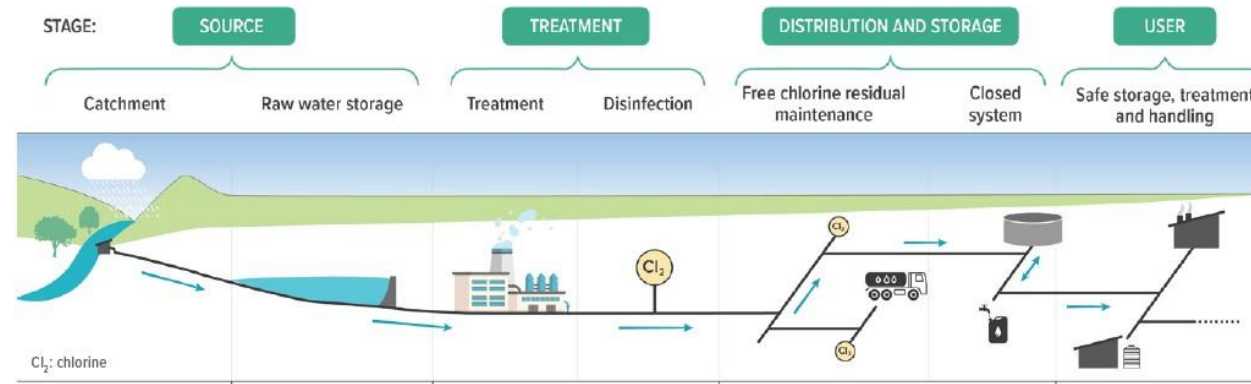


- Community water systems with centralised drinking water treatment
- Servicing ≥ 5 households or a public facility

- Published 2010
- Intended for First Nations staff responsible for drinking water systems as well as ISC, CRTP, consultants and others providing services to First Nations
- Standards for minimum treatment, operation, monitoring and management of centralised drinking water systems
- Identified need to update based on feedback from users & updated standards/best practices (Health Canada & World Health Organization)



Expected Outcomes



- Improved public health protection through a more robust risk assessment & management approach
- Greater flexibility in the design, operation and monitoring of systems to meet protocol **or** provincial standards
- Potential need for treatment plant adjustments in a small number of systems to meet updated microbiological treatment requirements
- Additional monitoring to meet new guidelines, with greater emphasis on source water characterization




Engagement Participation

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Engagement 2023: Updating the Protocol For Centralised Drinking Water Systems in First Nations communities

 **Current status: Open**

Engagement on draft updates to the standards for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, management and monitoring of centralised drinking water systems in First Nations communities.

- Draft Protocol & FAQs sent to all First Nation communities in summer 2023 for review and input
- We want to hear from First Nations; aim to gather feedback into until mid-December 2023
- Document on ISC website: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1687179235705/1687179296066>
- ISC seeking feedback in any form: via email, request for virtual information session: protocolh2o-protocolsh2o@sac-isc.gc.ca





Tendering Policy Comprehensive Review and Update



Addressing Tendering Issues

- The current Tendering Policy needs an update to address the issues that have been raised by First Nations
- Examples of major issues that are being explored include:
 - How to achieve best value in tendering for capital projects
 - Addressing barriers to Indigenous businesses' participation in capital projects, including bonding
 - Supporting economic development in local communities
 - Remoteness, lack of local contractors, and regional tendering thresholds
 - Further alignment with other federal policies and best practices concerning procurement
 - Improvement of tendering administration



Objectives of the Tendering Policy Review

- The policy will aim to:
 1. Increase First Nations' participation in ISC-funded capital projects
 2. Provide better support for First Nations' self-determination in the contractor and professional selection processes
 3. Introduce greater flexibility to support different approaches to tendering
 4. Maintain transparency, accountability, and fairness throughout the tendering process
- We are engaging communities in every region to seek their input into the policy review
- The policy review is expected to be completed by March 31, 2024





Infrastructure Modernization



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Infrastructure Modernization: Updates

- On May 30, 2023, in Toronto, and virtually on July 25 and 27, 2023, ISC met with Ontario First Nations to discuss and hear ideas on infrastructure modernization and potential new approaches to funding infrastructure on reserve, in Ontario.
- From these discussions, we heard:
 - A need for flexible, long-term, sustainable infrastructure funding so communities can better utilize construction seasons and build in a timelier fashion, suiting the particular needs of communities on the ground;
 - Interest in holistic funding approaches with not only with ISC's programs, but also other federal departments and with provinces and territories;
 - A need for sufficient and improved funding support for capacity to enable success and ensure sustainable operations;
 - Sustained, dedicated and long-term funding is essential to enable a holistic lifecycle investment approach for infrastructure planning is jeopardized; and
 - Reporting to ISC can be onerous and needs to be modernized to better meet the needs and realities of communities.



Infrastructure Modernization: Next Steps

- In Ontario, a final report is being prepared and will be sent to First Nations communities for validation.
- In the coming months, ISC is continuing conversations across Canada, with First Nations communities and organizations, as well as with other federal departments and financial institutions
- These discussions are helping to shape new options for sustainable, predictable funding and define a bold, new approach to how the department funds on-reserve infrastructure that better meets communities' infrastructure needs.
- Implementing changes will require time, resources, and ongoing engagement with First Nations partners. Collaboration with partners is crucial to ensure new ways of funding infrastructure on reserve is successful and addresses each community's needs, priorities and visions.

