

THE MISHAMIKOWEESH WATER PARTNERSHIP
PIMATIZIWIN NIPI
ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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

Pimatiziwin Nipi (Living Waters)– Who We Are

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. Lack of clean, running water impacts physical and mental health, hygiene and access to education.

Pimatiziwin Nipi is 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

Pimatiziwin Nipi was formed under the leadership of Mark MacDonald, former Indigenous Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada. With his resignation this April, we have been in a time of transition in our leadership and look to build more ties between Indigenous leaders and Pimatiziwin Nipi.

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.

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.

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. In August of 2022, a delegation (Martha Tatarnic, David Franks, Ophelia Kamenawatamin) was invited to accompany Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF, to Pikangikum to see the water systems and talk with community members.

Approximately 15 homes are being retrofitted in Phase 4 of the work and we were able to see that construction underway during our visit. A fifth phase, again using funds previously raised, was also discussed. For more details about the trip and its learnings, you can read here:

<https://pwrdf.org/connecting-the-dots-between-residential-schools-and-boil-water-advisories/>

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 Pimatiziwin 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.

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 who looks forward to supporting this work in 2023. Thank you for your offerings of prayer, financial support, leadership, and helping to spread the word about this important work. Through your faithfulness, we have so far raised almost a third of our \$150,000 goal, with this number expected to go up as more Advent donations come in from churches to PWRDF through January. We look forward to reaching this goal and being able to take on new initiatives in this partnership going forward into 2023.

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***

