

First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group Inc.

Circuit Rider Training Program



What is the Circuit Rider Training Program?

The Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) is a national program funded through Indigenous Services Canada. The program provides First Nations with training and support to effectively manage their water and wastewater systems.

The goals of the CRTP are:



Develop and maintain capacity to manage water/wastewater systems



Increase reliability of water/wastewater systems



Ensure efficient operations of public/semi-public water systems



Ensure water/wastewater health and safety standards are met



Maximize the use of existing infrastructure



Provide 24-hour access to qualified experts in case of emergencies

In Alberta, the CRTP is delivered by First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group Inc. (TSAG), a First Nations non-profit organization mandated by the Chiefs of Alberta. **TSAG's Circuit Rider Trainers (CRTs) work directly with water and wastewater operators to help them achieve and maintain the level of certification required for their community's water treatment plant.** TSAG's CRTP also provide onsite troubleshooting and instrumentation support.

"Each person has different way of learning, some more hands on, some pictures/diagram. I had one individual sit with me while I went through the small systems course one on one, and as I was teaching I had to take them out into their water treatment plant and show them each area we'd be dealing in and discuss how each of the processes work. Then the operator wrote the course exam and achieved a 100%."

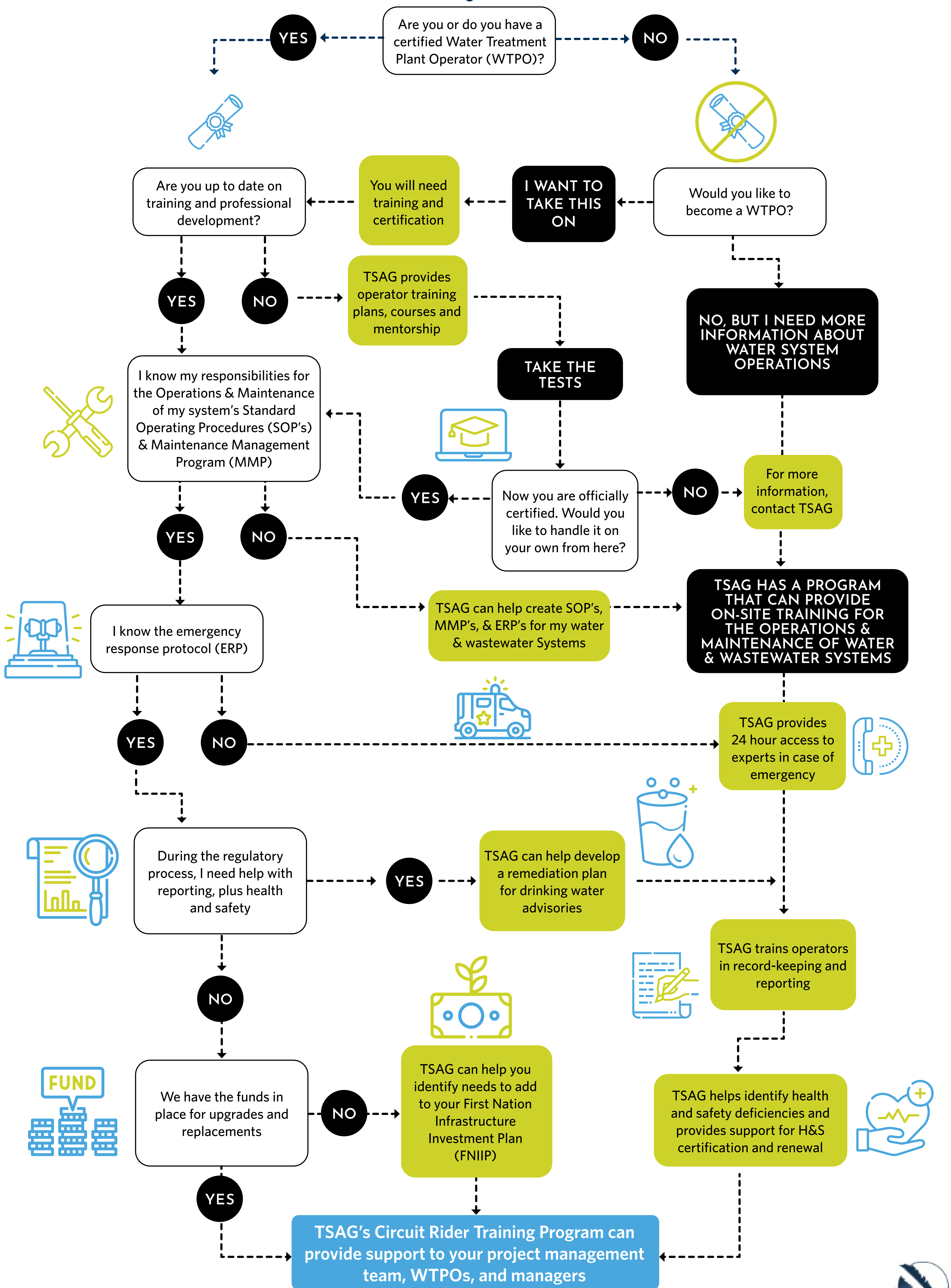
Brad Tourangeau,
Circuit Rider Trainer

"The job that they have tasked them selves to do has a very important responsibility to their community members to be sure that the system are treated properly and there members' water is safe. We tell the operators we are there to help them, all they have to do is tell us what is the problem and there is a possibility that we can help them succeed or we will find the answerer and help them."

Blair Campbell,
Circuit Rider Trainer Troubleshooter



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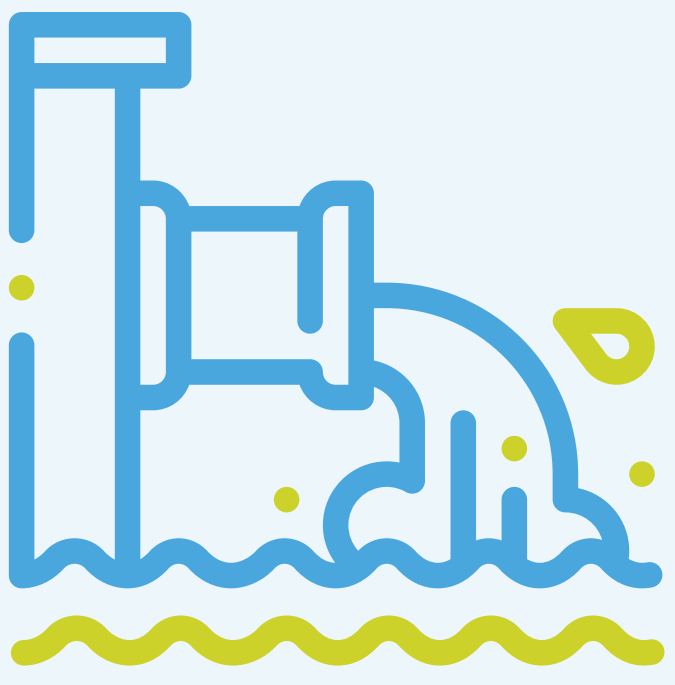
What is an “effectively managed and operated water system”?

An operational water system meets the more stringent of all federal and provincial standards for water quality, system maintenance and service, and operations. Operational water systems ensure that the end-users of the water (First Nation community members) are confident in the water that they are drinking.

There are many steps to achieving an operational water system, including:

- ✓ Certified operator(s) and backup operator(s) to the classification of their water system, who are also trained, competent, and capable to continually deliver the community water needs
- ✓ Effectively supervised and supported operators
- ✓ Developed and implemented maintenance management plan (MMP)
- ✓ Developed and updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- ✓ Up-to-date emergency management plan (ERP)
- ✓ Employment of the multi-barrier approach in providing safe water to the community which starts at the source with the development of a source water protection plan
- ✓ Implementation of an effective water sampling and testing routine from source to tap to continuously monitor drinking water quality
- ✓ Maintaining complete records to fully document operations, maintenance, monitoring and corrective actions
- ✓ Completion of the Asset Condition Reporting System Inspections (ACRS) once every three years
- ✓ Completion of the Annual Performance Inspections (APIs) once per year
- ✓ Access to important system documents such as: as-built drawings, contract documents, design drawings, environmental assessments, and feasibility studies.
- ✓ Developed and implemented health & safety policy

Who is responsible for ensuring a water system is operational?



First Nation leadership

Is responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of their water system. They are also responsible for ensuring their water system is operated by a certified water treatment plant operator, for monitoring drinking water quality, and for issuing boil order advisories (see Bill S-8: The Safe Drinking Water Act for First Nations).



Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Is responsible for providing funding for capital construction of First Nation water systems and 80% of the operational costs. First Nations Inuit Health Branch (ISC) is responsible for delivering or overseeing water monitoring programs for First Nations. Environment and Climate Change Canada is indirectly involved in source water protection through wastewater and effluent regulation.

TSAG provides a supporting role to First Nations to help them achieve their water operation goals and responsibilities. If you want more information on operational water systems, water operations, or training, please contact **crtp@tsag.net** or call **780-483-8601** and ask for the Circuit Rider Manager.