



NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2022

ACRS inspection season begins!

TSAG's ACRS team has started our inspection season as of April of this year! Aaron Campbell and Blair Campbell will be out inspecting water and sewer mains for 17 of Alberta's First Nations this summer. Blair has been repairing and maintaining water and wastewater systems with TSAG as a Circuit Rider for over 13 years and knows every hydrant in the communities like the back of his hand. Aaron is an Environmental Engineer-in-Training, specializing in water and solid waste management, and has been with TSAG for more than 4 years.

After a snowy start in Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, they continued on to inspect all of the hydrants and manholes in Sunchild First Nation and O'Chiese First Nation this April. Water and sewer mains are critical infrastructure and TSAG supports the repair and maintenance through our Circuit Riders and asset inspections every year. Lifting open manholes can be hard work, but it's great to be back on the road and enjoying time outdoors in the First Nations we serve!

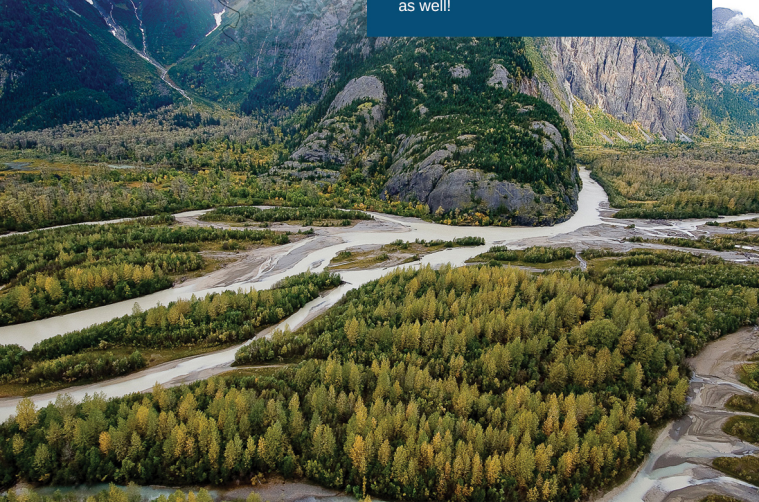




CMHC Home Inspector heads north

Now that spring is here, our CMHC home inspectors will be out and about in the nations. Even though Covid-19 restrictions have eased, we will still remain at a safe distance from others and sanitize frequently to combat the illness.

We also have some exciting news to announce! We will be sending out an inspector to Taku River Tlingit First Nation in remote Northern BC – a trip that hasn't been taken since before COVID-19 first hit. We are looking forward to this visit, and many more visits to Northern BC and to the Yukon as well!





Drinking Water, Waste Water, and Environmental Health
Awareness, Education, and Training

TSAG is collaborating with First Nation communities in working towards water sovereignty

By Theresa Cavanagh

What is water sovereignty? It is linked to First Nation sovereignty and it refers to the recognition through the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the inherent and human rights to water for basic human needs, sanitation, social, economic, cultural and ceremonial purposes. It is about preserving the water cycle and controlling water storage, use, access, and supply in a manner that realizes rights to water while meeting the needs of nature, defining a path towards a sustainable future.

How does UNDRIP relate to Indigenous water rights? Although water is only specifically mentioned in UNDRIP twice, references to “lands, territories and resources” throughout the UNDRIP are interpreted to include water and water rights are historically inherent rather than acquired rights. These inherent rights stem from our relationship with our traditional territories and they exist entirely on their own as they pre-exist the creation of the Constitution and thus do not require external validation from national or international bodies.



TSAG has been developing and delivering water programs to increase community understanding of drinking water problems and the importance of conservation and source water protection and drinking water safety plans. This includes training and increasing awareness of private water and waste water system operations and maintenance as well as an understanding of water monitoring procedures, testing and reporting by community based water monitors (CBWM).

Activities we've been embarking in pursuit of water sovereignty include visiting Alberta First Nations schools, science fairs and career fairs to promote source to tap drinking water protection and awareness, including water testing, conservation, and watershed health. We have been supporting community-based water initiatives that encourage youth and adults to engage in water management activities in their communities. We deliver multi-media activities to engage youth in sharing their perspectives on water and environmental health, raise river/lake awareness days at Alberta First Nations schools and youth groups to promote source water and drinking water monitoring and health along with careers in those fields.

Check out our water success stories to be published on the TSAG website and other First Nations media providers.

Here are some statistics that may help you consider quitting smoking



- An Ontario study showed that twice as many Indigenous people smoke in comparison to non-Indigenous people. Exposure to cigarette smoke is a huge risk factor for developing cancer among other chronic illnesses.
- The Canadian Paediatric Society has reported that smoking rates among Indigenous youth are three times higher than their non-Indigenous peers.
- The Canadian Paediatric Society has also reported that Canadian Inuit people have the highest rates of lung cancer in the world.
- A US study stated that the exposure to the carcinogens in cigarette smoke damages one's DNA and causes mutations, leading to lung cancer.



PRAP and Beaver First Nation make progress with 911 services

Beaver First Nation's Public Works Manager, Riel Chonkolay reached out to TSAG's Personalized Rural Addressing Program (PRAP) team in March of 2021. Riel wanted to know how the PRAP team could help implement 9-1-1 services to the communities of Child Lake and Boyer River. This request began the process to institute the service as quickly as possible and in less than a year, a working 9-1-1 option for residents was implemented.

TSAG's PRAP team developed an incremented system of address numbering for homes and community buildings while Beaver First Nation selected names for each of their roads. The community worked together to select and approve road names that are either commonly used by the community or named in recognition of a particular Tsa'tinne person or family surname.

TSAG's PRAP team then took the final data as approved by Chief and Council to create digital addressing. This data was uploaded to Google Maps and the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership (AMDSP). The new address numbers and road names were inventoried and required signage was tallied and inserted into a spreadsheet, where it was submitted for quotes to signage manufacturers. A manufacturer was chosen, and while waiting for the signage to be produced, the 9-1-1 process was initiated.

TSAG's PRAP team reached out to 9-1-1 coordinators with the Government of Alberta and the TELUS Next Generation 9-1-1 team to help secure NG9-1-1 service for Beaver First Nation. After it was confirmed that TSAG and Beaver First Nation had successfully fulfilled required obligations for NG9-1-1 program enrollment, the two 9-1-1 teams started the connection process in November of 2021, with the Hamlet of Lac La Biche being their central hub. On March of 2022 – one year from when the project began – Beaver First Nation was happy to announce they had a working 9-1-1 emergency call system.

**BEAVER F.N.
ADMINISTRATION**

**2838
Rocky Lane Road**



Google Maps

Upcoming Telehealth Sessions



EATING DISORDERS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

MAY 4TH, 2022 1:30 - 3:00

This session will include information about eating disorders; the spectrum of disordered eating; risk factors; and warning signs to watch for in a loved one or yourself.



COFFEE CORNER WITH BROOKE

MAY 3RD, 2022 9:30 - 10:00

Start your morning off with a cup of coffee, tea, or glass of water... ALL are welcome!



VIRTUAL GATHERING ON JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE 2022-2023 REQUESTS

MAY 13TH, 2022 10:00 - 12:00

Learning Outcomes:

Understand eligibility requirements under CHRT 36

What do I need to apply

Where can I receive help with my requests.



INTRODUCTION TO AUTISM AND AUTISM SUPPORTS IN ALBERTA

MAY 19TH, 2022 10:00 - 11:30

This session will include information for autistic individuals and their family, caregivers, and support people. Anyone interested in learning more about autism



OVERLOOKING THE LOWS

Why you may be missing severe
Hypoglycemia in your practice and
what you should do about it.

MAY 17TH, 2022 1:30 - 2:30

Healthcare staff managing patients with diabetes.



COFFEE CORNER WITH BROOKE

MAY 3RD, 2022 9:30 - 10:00

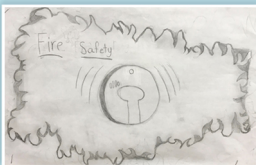
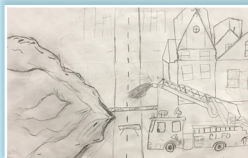
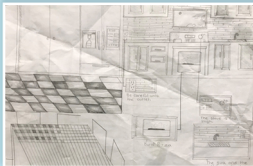
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Youth Fire Safety Art Contest a success!



Smoke Detector Safety



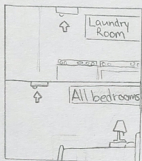
TSAG ran a Youth Fire Safety Art contest last month and it was won by the

Grade 7 Class at Le Goff School in Cold Lake!

They won a **PIZZA PARTY** for their efforts!



Make sure everyone
in your home knows
the alarm sound and
what to do if they
hear it.



Put smoke alarms
in every sleeping
room, outside
each separate
sleeping area,
and on every
level of your
home, including
the basement.



Meet with
your landlord
or building manager
to learn about the
building's fire safety
features: smoke
alarms, fire alarm
sprinklers and
evacuation plans



Teach young children
that matches and
lighters are not
toys.

**This masterpiece was
created by Ava Cardinal
from Bigstone, and she
won a portable backup
battery for her work.**