

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA REGIONAL DELIVERY SECTOR - ALBERTA WATER AND WASTEWATER PROGRAM

May 26, 2026



Indigenous Services
Canada

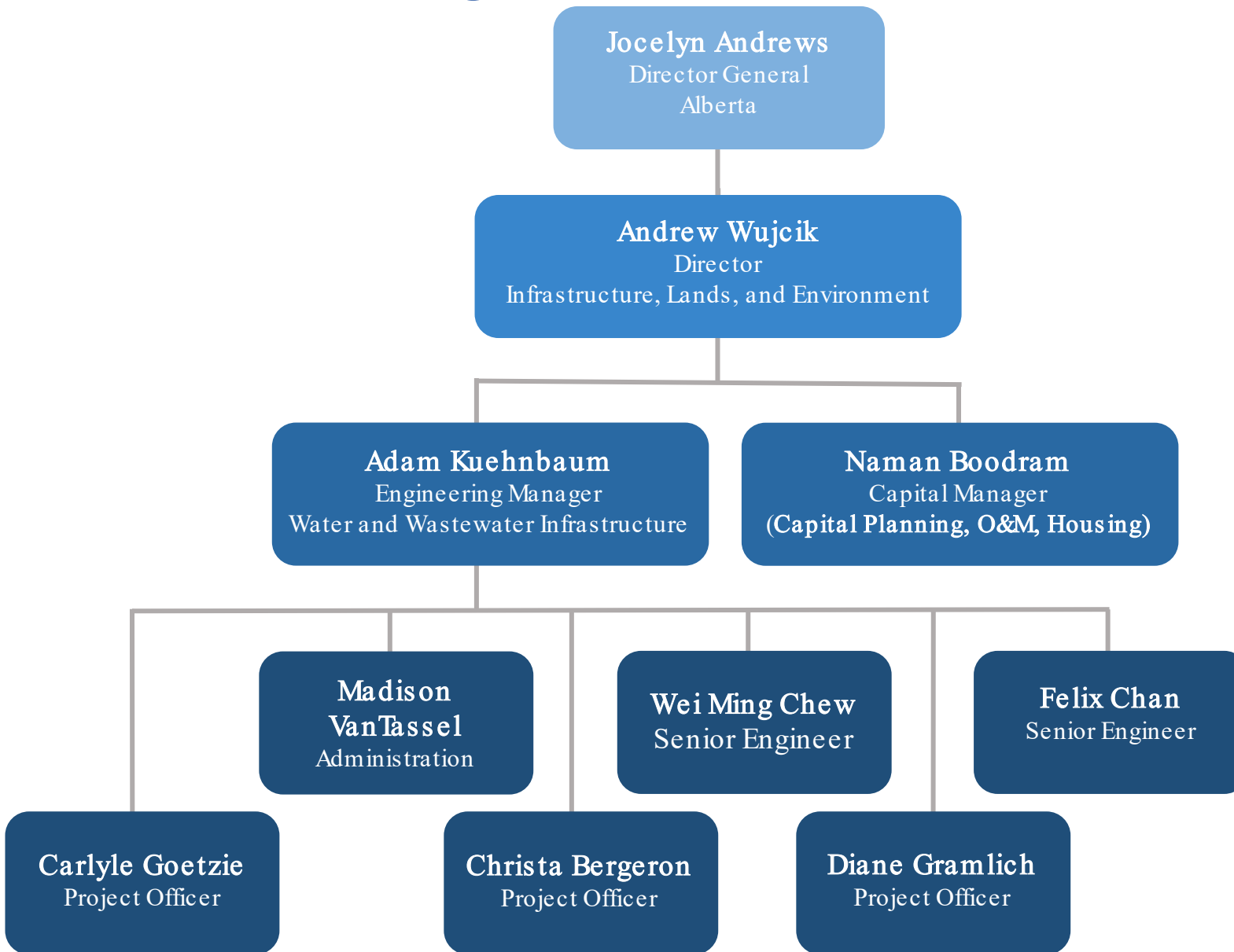
Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada

Overview

- **Organizational Structure**
- **Who We Are**
- **What We Do**
 - Infrastructure Project Planning and Delivery
 - Annual Performance Inspections (API's)
 - Water Legislation and Litigation Files
 - Policy, Protocol and Guidelines Review
 - Provincial Working Groups
 - Operations and Maintenance
 - Drinking Water Advisory Group
 - Capacity Building Initiatives
- **Contact Information**
- **Questions?**

Organizational Structure



Who We Are

The water strategy team works in partnership with First Nations in Alberta to deliver **water and wastewater** projects funded through the First Nations Water and Wastewater Enhanced Program (FNWWEP).



Adam Kuehnbaum
Engineering Manager



Felix Chan
Senior Engineer



Madison VanTassell
Capital Planning Officer



Wei Ming Chew
Senior Engineer



Christa Bergeron
Project Officer



Diane Gramlich
Project Officer



Carlyle Goetzle
Project Officer

What We Do

Infrastructure Project Planning and Delivery

First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIP)

- What is it?
 - It helps to identify the **infrastructure needs and priorities** and to strategically plan **infrastructure investments** in First Nation communities.
- The National FNIP is developed each year.
 - It is based on infrastructure investment plans at the community and regional level.
 - A First Nation will submit a community-level plan to a regional office in order to be considered in the National FNIP.
 - Submission for the community-level plan is due **October 15** but it can be updated throughout the year.
- Capital projects are identified on FNIP. They are divided into two categories:
 - **Major** Capital Projects
 - **Minor** Capital Projects
- Our team is available to discuss FNIP with Nations and assist them with infrastructure planning.

What We Do

Infrastructure Project Planning and Delivery

Major Capital Projects (Total Estimated Cost >\$1.5M)

Feasibility Study

- Look at current conditions of water infrastructure and develop options to meet objectives.
- Options analysis must include a **life cycle cost estimate (LCC)** for each option.
 - LCC estimate must consider both the capital cost and the long-term operations and maintenance costs.
- Project Approval Request (PAR) Development.
 - Projects <\$30M require review and approval within the AB Region.
 - Projects >\$30M require review and approval at headquarters.

Design

- **Once the PAR has been approved and funding secured, an engineering consultant is typically procured to design the recommended solution.**
- ISC Environment (RO) and Public Health (FNIHB) reviews.
- TSAG involvement to provide operational recommendations
- Process typically takes **one year**.

Construction

- A project can go out to tender to procure a contractor for construction.
- Involvement of TSAG and FNIHB critical at commissioning step.
- Construction of new water and wastewater system typically takes **two years**.

What We Do

Infrastructure Project Planning and Delivery

Minor Capital Projects (Total Estimate Cost <\$1.5M)

- Nations work with our Senior Engineer or Project Officer on options to secure funding.



What We Do

Infrastructure Project Planning and Delivery

First Nation Water and Wastewater Enhanced Program (FNWWEP)

- FNIP projects are funded under the **FNWWEP** program
- Fiscal Year **2025/26** budget
 - **\$137M**
- Fiscal Year **2026/27** budget
 - **\$91M** (team is supporting **176 active projects** so far this year).
- FNWWEP program must be delivered according to the **Capital Facilities and Management Program (CFMP)**
 - CFMP is the **'rule book'** for the use of program funds
 - Outlines requirements for Feasibility Study, Design, Construction phases, PAR requirements and **procurement policies**
 - Tendering Policy
 - **Professional Services**
 - **<\$150K – sole source** with demonstration of value for money
 - **\$150K to \$650K – invited** tender
 - **>\$650K – open public** tender
 - **Construction Services**, varies and is based on remoteness index.
 - In general:
 - **<\$250K – sole source** with demonstration of value for money
 - **\$250K to \$1M – invited** tender
 - **>\$1M – open public** tender
- Various other thresholds depending on procurement strategy (CM, own forces)

Kehewin Cree Nation Water Phase 2

NON CLASSIFIE / UNCLASSIFIED



Engineer: WSP

Contractor: Options Excavating

- Approximately 13km of 200 mm diameter mainline
- 110 waterline ties in and removal of cistern and trucking service
- Install a PSV at the WTP and upgrade SCADA system
- Over 10% of contract value invested back into Kehewin through local content commitments

Louis Bull Band Interim Water Treatment Plant



Engineer: WSP

Contractor: Laminar and Alpha Construction

- New greensand filtration containerized treatment system
- New pumphouse for distribution including reservoir expansion
- WTP commissioned in January/February 2026

Enoch Cree Nation Village Core Area – Water and Sewer Upgrades



Engineer: M2

Contractor: Pidherney's

- Project completed on time and on budget
- 1150 m of new sanitary sewer and 850 m CIPP sewer lining
- 925 m of replaced water mainline
- 25 services replaced
- CEA Award recipient

Saddle Lake Cree Nation Lagoon Desludging

NON CLASSIFIE / UNCLASSIFIED



Engineer: ISL

Contractor: Lambourne

- Approximately 650 m³ of sludge within anaerobic cells removed
- Ongoing project to repair damaged liner in facultative cell and increase facultative treatment capacity while restoring flow to the storage cell

Samson Cree Nation SAGR Cell Grass Fire Damage Repairs

NON CLASSIFIE / UNCLASSIFIED



Insurance Adjuster: Coast Claims

Engineer: Urban Systems

Contractor: Nexom, Nu Edge and Elgie & Sons

- Support with bypass authorization to ECCC
- Repair piping and HDPE liner damage
- Replace insulation on control structures
- Add firebreak around cells

What We Do

Annual Performance Inspections (API's)

Neeگان Burnside Report

- An Initial National Assessment was completed by Neeگان Burnside in **2009/10** and **2010/11**.
- A report was sent out to each First Nation.

Annual Performance Inspections

- Completed on an **annual basis**.
 - Have been led by FNTSAG since 2011/12.
 - Summary letters are sent to Chief and Council with cc to Public Works Directors annually
- API's identify risks associated with water and wastewater systems.
 - Risks are categorized under five different headings.
 - The weighted risk for each category is combined to calculate an overall risk for each system.
 - Each system is identified as a **high**, **medium**, or **low** risk system.

WATER

- Source Water – 10%
- Design – 30%
- Operations – 30%
- Reporting – 10%
- Operators – 20%



WASTEWATER

- Effluent Receiver – 20%
- Design – 25%
- Operations – 25%
- Reporting – 10%
- Operators – 20%

What We Do

2025/26 API Results

- Water Systems:
 - **2 High Risk System**
 - **17 Medium Risk Systems**
 - **49 Low Risk Systems**
- Wastewater Systems:
 - **6 High Risk Systems**
 - **38 Medium Risk Systems**
 - **21 Low Risk Systems**

What We Do

Litigation Files

- Team works with the Litigation Management Resolution Branch and the Department of Justice on various litigation files in the Region.

Policy, Protocol and Guideline Review

- Team works with the ISC Strategic Water Management (SWM) team in HQ on review and updates to policies and protocols

Provincial Working Groups

- **Government of Alberta First Nation Regional Water Tie-In Program**
 - Partnership with AB Indigenous Relations and AB Transportation
 - Funding targeted to support a potable water supply to FN boundary.
 - Program is opportunity driven (**5 communities connected to date**).
 - ISC is responsible for project costs that fall within the boundary of the FN.
 - GOA has allocated **~\$100M** for the program, which is reported to be **fully allocated**.

What We Do

Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

- O&M funding is a subsidy to assist with operations and maintenance costs for eligible assets.
- Funding is based on a **national asset formula** which takes into account factors such as the geographical location and proximity to city centers.
- A review of the full formula was completed by headquarters and resulted in significant **increases** in the O&M funding provided.
- Water and wastewater assets are now funded at **100%** of the amount calculated by the formula.
 - bills for purchase of water from a **regional water system** are considered an **eligible O&M expense** and **covered** under the O&M program
- A new tool has been developed to outline the **labour component (in \$)** included in the O&M provided for water and wastewater
 - **O&M funding levels** are **shared** with **leadership and portfolio holders** at the start of every year.
- Tracey Travis (Regional Program Development Advisor) leads the O&M program for Alberta Region.

What We Do

Drinking Water Advisory (DWA) Group

Regional Drinking Water Advisory (DWA) Group

- An Initial National Assessment was initiated in 2010/11.
- Collaborative approach in rectifying DWA issues.
- Participants include:
 - ISC
 - ISC FNIHB
 - TSAG - CRTP
- Meetings are held weekly to review the ISC FNIHB report.
- Discuss common issues to resolve **past**, **current**, and **outstanding** drinking water advisories.
- Work collaboratively to develop DWA Work Plans with the goal to mitigate **ALL DWA's**.

Contact Information

- Andrew Wujcik** Director, Infrastructure, Lands and Environment
andrew.wujcik@sac-isc.gc.ca
- Adam Kuehnbaum** Engineering Manager, Water & Wastewater Infrastructure
adam.kuehnbaum@sac-isc.gc.ca
- Naman Boodram** Capital Manager
naman.boodram@sac-isc.gc.ca
- Tracey Travis** Acting Regional Program Development Advisor (O&M)
tracey.travis@sac-isc.gc.ca

Questions?