



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

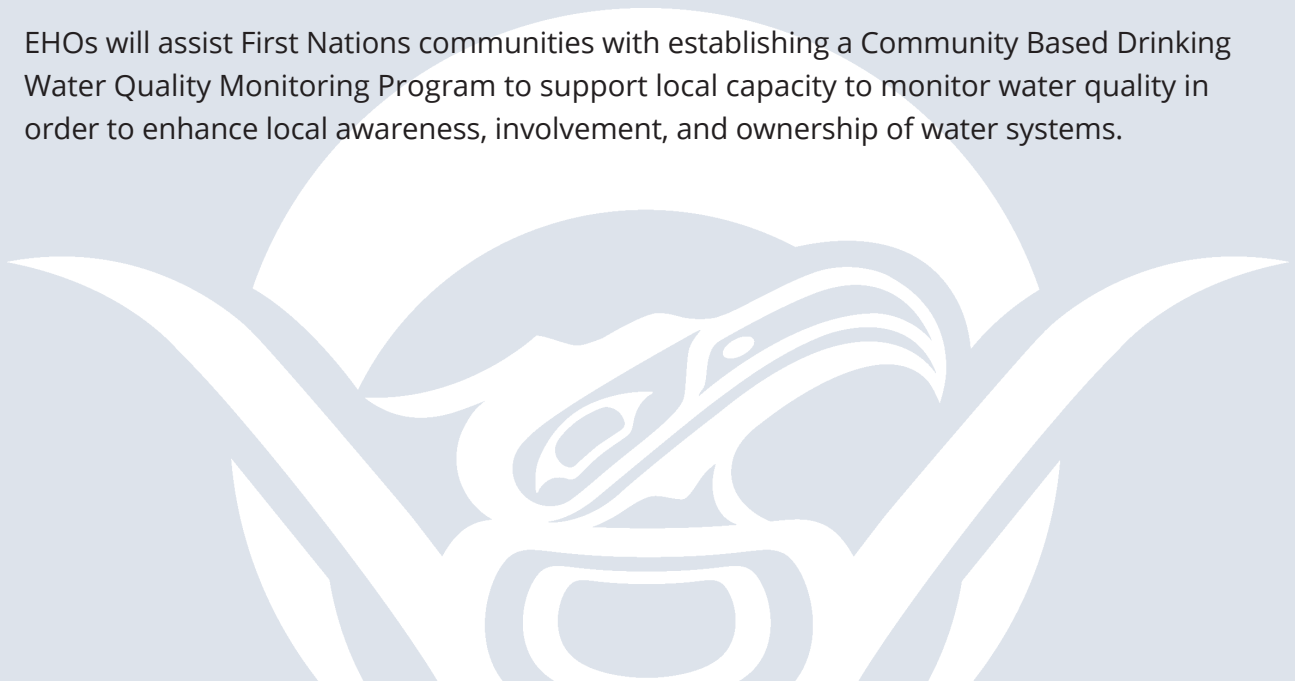
Drinking Water Safety

FNHA Drinking Water Safety Program

The FNHA Drinking Water Safety Program (DWSP) works in partnership with First Nations communities to support access to safe and reliable drinking water from their community water systems. As part of the DWSP team, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs):

- Inspect drinking water systems and test drinking water quality to meet the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.
- Interpret drinking water quality results.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to First Nations communities pertaining to drinking water safety issues such as boil water advisories (BWA), do not consume advisories (DNC) or do not use (DNU) advisories.
- Provide training for Community Based Water Monitors (CBWMs).
- Review plans for new or upgraded community water systems from a public health perspective.
- Provide information and support on safe drinking water practices and prevention of risks to Chief and Council and community members.
- Investigate water borne illnesses.

EHOs will assist First Nations communities with establishing a Community Based Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Program to support local capacity to monitor water quality in order to enhance local awareness, involvement, and ownership of water systems.



Community Based Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Program

Community Based Drinking Water Monitors (CBWM) play a key role in the Drinking Water Safety Program as the designated person responsible for sampling, testing, recording and communicating the microbiological quality of drinking water within the community. The CBWM is also responsible for distributing results and may assist with developing and carrying out a drinking water quality awareness program.

The CBWM may be a Community Health Representative (CHR), Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO), or another individual selected by the Band. If a community does not have a CBWM, the activities may be completed by the FNHA Environmental Health Officer or an FNHA Environmental Health Technician.

Environmental Health Officers train CBWMs to sample and test the drinking water for potential microbial contamination using community lab equipment (Colilert®). WaterTrax®, an internet-based data management system, is used to securely manage all drinking water quality data to which the CBWM, Band Health Directors, and the Drinking Water Safety Program (DWSP) team have access.



**For more information about Drinking Water Safety,
please contact your Environmental Health Officer or visit our website:
www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health**