



## Examinations

### Written Examinations

Exam sessions are scheduled in over 20 locations across Ontario including the Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence in Dryden. Exams are scheduled by OWWCO. See [www.owwco.ca](http://www.owwco.ca) for dates and locations.

### Practical Examinations

For operators with over 6 years of operational experience, practical examinations may be an option for becoming a certified drinking water operator. The exams:

- Are delivered by an Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario assessor on-site at the operator's facility
- Allow the operator to answer questions orally or through demonstration
- Only include questions that are relevant to the facility where the operator works

Please contact OWWCO for more information (contact information is provided on this brochure).

## Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP)

The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) delivers Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) in Ontario. The CRTP provides First Nation operators with hands-on training on how to operate, service and maintain the water and wastewater systems in their community. For more information, please contact OFNTSC (contact information is provided on this brochure).

## Contacts for Additional Information

General Education Development

- Independent Learning Centre (ILC)  
telephone: 416-484-2737; website: [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org)
- Ministry of Education website: [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca)
- Your local school board

## GED and Water & Wastewater Operator Training

### Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence

209-100 Casimir Avenue  
Dryden ON P8N 3L4  
Telephone: 807-737-1135  
ext. 4000  
Toll Free: 1-877-737-5638  
ext. 4000  
Email: [info@watertraining.ca](mailto:info@watertraining.ca)  
Website: [www.watertraining.ca](http://www.watertraining.ca)

### Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC)

20 Ontario Road  
P.O. Box 160  
Walkerton ON N0G 2V0  
Telephone: 519-881-2003  
Toll Free: 1-866-515-0550  
Email: [inquiry@wcwc.ca](mailto:inquiry@wcwc.ca)  
Website: [www.wcwc.ca](http://www.wcwc.ca)

## Ontario Water Wastewater Certification Office (OWWCO)

302 The East Mall, Suite 600  
Etobicoke ON, M9B 6C7  
Toll Free: 1-877-231-2122  
Tel: 416-231-2100  
Fax: 416-231-2107  
Email: [info@owwco.ca](mailto:info@owwco.ca)  
Website: [www.owwco.ca](http://www.owwco.ca)

## Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC)

**Brantford Service Centre**  
195 Henry Street, Bldg 4,  
Unit 3, Brantford, ON  
N3S 5C9

Telephone: 226-493-0225  
Toll Free: 1-888-535-3383  
Fax: 416-651-1673  
Website: [www.ofntsc.org](http://www.ofntsc.org)

**Thunder Bay Service Centre**  
200 South Syndicate Avenue,  
Suite 206A

Thunder Bay ON P7E 1C9  
Telephone: 807-623-9595  
Toll Free: 1-888-892-8281  
Fax: 807-623-2566

## Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO)

Box 20001, RPO, Riverview  
Postal Outlet  
Dryden, Ontario  
P8N 0A1

Telephone: 807-216-8085  
Email: [info@awwao.org](mailto:info@awwao.org)  
Website: [www.awwao.org](http://www.awwao.org)



# A Guide to Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certification for First Nations



## An Important and Rewarding Job

Everyone depends on clean and safe water. Water and wastewater operators serve their communities by helping to ensure the safety of drinking water and protecting the natural environment by ensuring that the wastewater is discharged in a safe manner.

## Why Become a Certified Water and Wastewater Operator?

Operator certification is an important element of protecting drinking water and our natural waterways. Certification acknowledges an operator's knowledge and skills and helps to ensure that they are qualified to be responsible for supplying and treating water. Maintaining certification helps operators continually enhance their knowledge and be aware of the newest developments in the field.

Through participation in Ontario's certification program, operators can help ensure that they are conducting their duties in the safest manner possible using best management practices. The duties of an operator are varied, which makes this job very interesting.

## How to Become a Certified Water and Wastewater Operator

The first step is to get an Operator-in-Training (OIT) certificate. An OIT certificate is issued for 3 years and allows a new operator to gain operational experience. The minimum requirements to apply for an OIT certificate are:

- A high school diploma (Grade 12), General Education Development (GED) or equivalent; and
- Pass the (OIT) examination.

To move to a Class I certificate, an OIT must:

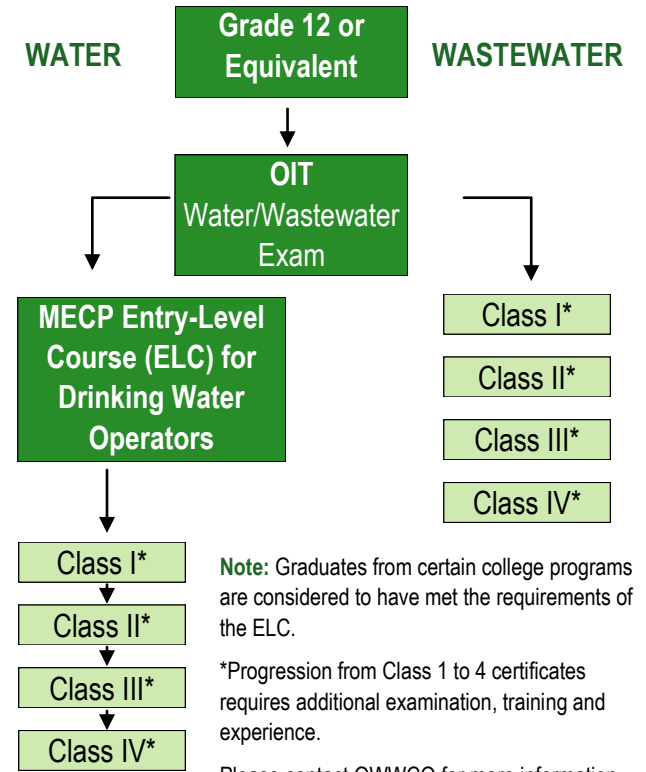
- Gain one year of hands-on operational experience
- Pass the Class I exam
- Complete the Entry-Level Course for Drinking Water Operators (for drinking water certification only)

## Entry Level Course (ELC)

The ELC is a mandatory course developed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for all drinking water operators. The course addresses important subject matter that all operators should know. It is available to individuals interested in pursuing a career in water treatment or distribution.

**The ELC is being offered at no cost.** Some of the course content and delivery format were updated to ensure it meets the needs of Operators of First Nations systems. The revised course offerings started in the fall of 2017 and is being delivered throughout Ontario.

Contact the Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation or the Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence for more details about the ELC for First Nations Operators (contact information is provided on this brochure).



## Experience

To obtain operational experience that can be used towards certification, a First Nation water/wastewater facility must have submitted an application for an assessment to determine its facility class level (i.e., I, II, III, or IV). The annual training requirements for drinking water operators are based on the highest class of system they work in. There is no cost to have a First Nation system or facility classified.

Please contact OWWCO for more information (contact information is provided on this brochure) or visit [www.owwco.ca/facility-assessments/](http://www.owwco.ca/facility-assessments/).