

September 2017

Dear Chief and Council,

The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC), Keewaytinook Okimakanak/Northern Chiefs Council (KO) and the Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC) have partnered to develop and deliver drinking water training that meets the specific needs of First Nations communities and their operators. As our first project under this partnership, we are offering the Entry-Level Course for Drinking Water Operators (ELC) to First Nations communities.

This training will be:

- Delivered at no cost including travel, meals and accommodations
- Tailored to operators working in First Nations facilities
- Made available at convenient locations in Ontario

This course provides operators with a basic understanding of water characteristics and public health, water science and mathematics, treatment and distribution systems. It is delivered over a two week period:

- 1<sup>st</sup> week – facilitated self-study with face-to-face instructor support
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week – classroom instruction and hands-on component delivered by two instructors

We are piloting this initiative first in Thunder Bay, then in a remote community. Taking a pilot approach will help us gain valuable insights from participants, which will be used to inform future curriculum development and course delivery. We will be reaching out to the Tribal Councils in the area to confirm course registrations. Following the pilot, subsequent sessions will be offered in several other communities to help ensure that training is available to operators of First Nations systems across the province. As part of the planning process for future sessions, we will continue to reach out to communities in the coming months to determine the most convenient locations and dates to deliver the course. If a community has any constraints or difficulties in attending the training sessions, we will work with them to address specific needs wherever possible.

For more information, please contact the following:

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c: All Tribal Councils