



**Assemblée des Premières Nations
Québec-Labrador**

250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, bureau 201
Wendake (Québec) GOA 4V0
Tél. : 418-842-5020 • Téléc. : 418-842-2660
www.apnql-afnql.com

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CONVOCATION

To: Grand Chiefs, Chiefs and Water/Wastewater Directors/Managers
From: Jean-Claude Therrien Pinette, Chief of Operations
Date: May 3, 2019
Re: **Engagement Session on the Water/Wastewater Legislation, June 5, 2019**

Madam, Sir,

There is now a new date for the meeting originally scheduled for last February, which was canceled. You are therefore invited to an Engagement Session on water and wastewater legislation that will be held on June 5, 2019 at the Hotel Quebec in Quebec City. The Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act came into force in 2013, with the objective of creating enforceable regulations to ensure access to safe, clean and reliable drinking water, the effective treatment of wastewater, and the protection of sources of drinking water on First Nations lands. Many concerns were raised about this legislation, including the lack of consultation, the transfer of responsibility without identified resources, and the infringement of First Nations rights. Following multiple representations, the position of the federal government has changed. There is now a commitment to support a First Nations led approach to creating new First Nations safe drinking water and wastewater legislation.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was mandated to propose a multi-phase approach for the co-development of new legislation, which includes holding engagement sessions across the country to further inform and develop the draft legislative framework. The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) assists the AFN in organizing the engagement session with First Nations in Quebec.

The meeting aims to ensure that the development of a new legislative framework for First Nations safe drinking water and wastewater is endorsed, informed and supported by meaningful feedback and dialogue. Among the topics to be discussed:

- current status of Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act;
- preliminary concepts (funding, systems, FN rights, interests, etc.);
- transparent and consent-based approach;
- consensual transition to care and control;

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In addition to the elected political Water/Wastewater Portfolio Holder, we suggest the participation of one person from your Capital/Infrastructure Department in connection with the themes of the meeting. Two representatives from each tribal council, the Cree Nation Government and other First Nations organizations are cordially invited to participate. The regional team of circuit rider trainers/water sanitation technicians is also kindly invited to participate.

Your eligible accommodations, meals and travel expenses will be reimbursed for two participants per community, two per tribal council (and other First Nations organizations), and for the regional team of circuit rider trainers/water sanitation technicians, according to the rules and rates in force at the AFNQL. We remind you that you must choose the cheapest travel option. If you use a car, we ask you to travel together.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the Hôtel Québec located at 3115, avenue des Hôtels, Québec. Please contact the **hotel directly at 418 658-5120 or 1 800 567-5276, and indicate No 4961366** to make your reservation **no later than May 17, 2019**. The AFNQL will reimburse a maximum of \$139 + taxes for the room, with receipts.

The meeting will last all day Wednesday, June 5. An agenda and additional information will be provided before the meeting. We believe this meeting is an opportunity to influence the development of a new legislative framework for safe drinking water and wastewater on First Nation lands.

We look forward to your attendance and ask you to **return the registration form at the AFNQL**, fax: 418 842-2660, or e-mail: charvey@apnql-afnql.com, **before May 17, 2019**.