



Rotary International District 7010 Indigenous Project – Water First



This project is in the planning stages for 2021-2022 and will involve working with a non-profit organization called [Water First](#).

- Water First is the only charitable organization in Canada focused on addressing Indigenous communities' water challenges through education, training, and collaboration.
- Together with First Nation communities, Water First is working to solve the issue that water treatment plants have no ongoing training in water management once the treatment plant built.
- Water First works with tribal councils by funding a career training program for young adults in water management. The program is a 15-month program, where those selected are paid and trained and at the end graduates of the program will receive their Operator in Training (OIT) and Water Quality Analyst (WQA) certifications meaning they are Provincially certified in water management.
- In 15 months, the internship program provides over 2,000 hours of training in the classroom, at local water treatment facilities, and out on the land. And then use their

knowledge, skills, and credentials to support their communities, providing safe and clean drinking water for future generations.

- Each program supports 12 – 18 students
- Cost is approx. \$50,000 per intern for 15-month program
- Funding - 1/3 by First Nations
- Water First, will assist in the intern selection process and manage the 15-month training program.

Programs to date:

- #1 Pilot - Manitoulin Island – 7 First Nation communities
- #2 Kenora (Bimose) - 11 First Nation communities
- #3 Georgian Bay - 8 First Nation communities – start May 2021
- #4 ?? – start spring 2022; with Rotary District 7010 support (includes clubs in Sudbury and surrounding area)

Objectives:

- Raise funding to provide support to Water First 4th program.
- Apply for financial assistance utilizing District and The Rotary Foundation Global Grant funds.
- Work with Water First to influence selection of 4th program, preferably within the area covered by Rotary District 7010.



For additional information contact Rotary International District 7010 - RIDistrict7010@gmail.com