

From the Tap: The Safe Drinking Water Foundation Newsletter

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From the Executive Director's Desk...

We have had an amazing school year! We are so grateful for the amount of funding we received, the number of water testing kits we were able to send to schools, and the number of Canadian students we were able to educate in a hands-on manner!

We are excited to announce the winners of our Student Action on Saskatchewan Water Attitudes Competition and of our Student Action on Canadian Water Attitudes Competition.

We have most of the revamped Operation Water Spirit program available on our website and we have a summer youth employee who is working on identifying connections between the curriculum and the program.

The recording of our World Water Day 2019 webinar is available on our website and on YouTube. We will be holding a World Rivers Day webinar this fall. In addition, starting right at the beginning of the school year, we will be holding another student action competition.

We are happy about the warm weather and about the fact that the summer gives us a chance to take a mini break to catch our breath before next school year!



Nicole M. Hancock



Thank You SARRC (Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp.)!

SARRC provided us with \$5,000 to send sponsored kits to Saskatchewan schools in locations where they operate.



**Saskatchewan Association for
Resource Recovery Corp.**

Thank You Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA)!

SIGA provided us with \$5,000 to send sponsored kits to First Nations schools in Saskatchewan.



Thank You Alberta Conservation Association!

Alberta Conservation Association provided us with a \$3,825 grant to send sponsored water testing kits to Alberta teachers who will use the kits with their students as part of field trips.



We Have Joined Twitter!

Follow us [@SafeDrinkingWa1](https://twitter.com/SafeDrinkingWa1)!

Thank You Canada Summer Jobs!

Canada Summer Jobs provided us with \$3,096.80 to pay a summer youth employee to identify connections between curriculum and our revamped Operation Water Spirit program.



**Government
of Canada**

**Gouvernement
du Canada**

Thank You Honda!

Honda Canada Foundation provided us with \$2,500 to send sponsored kits to schools that are on the waiting list for sponsored kits and are located in communities where there are Honda dealerships.



HONDA

HONDA CANADA FOUNDATION

Thank You SaskTel!

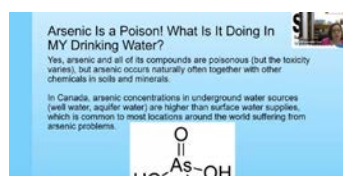
SaskTel provided us with \$1,360 to send sponsored Operation Water Pollution kits to rural Saskatchewan schools.



World Water Day 2019 Webinar Recording

Watch the recording of our World Water Day 2019 webinar here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsQOJyu6lck>



Over 1,200 Kits Were Sent to Canadian Schools and Used by Over 46,000 Canadian Students!

Thanks to our generous sponsors for purchasing kits for schools and to educators who bought kits, we were able to send 1,242 water testing kits to schools to be used by 46,449 students!

564 Elementary Operation Water Drop kits and 279 High School Operation Water Drop kits were used by 22,410 students, 193 Operation Water Pollution kits were used by 18,706 students, and 206 Operation Water Biology kits were used by 5,333 students.



Join Our Facebook Group!

Join us on Facebook to hear all of our news as it happens! Along with our news and water news, we also post Water Facts of the Week on Mondays, Talk Back Tuesdays (feedback about our educational programs), Watch It Wednesdays (videos about anything related to water), Thank You Thursdays, and Funny Fridays!

Visit: www.facebook.com/groups/safedrinkingwaterfoundation/

Pike Lake School Won the Student Action on Saskatchewan Water Attitudes Competition!

Pike Lake School is located approximately 30 kilometres south of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, near Pike Lake Provincial Park. The students' first step in their project was to make other students aware of Pike Lake School's water source. The students were interested to learn that they are fortunate to have a deep well that provides their school with clean, safe drinking water. Then, the students wanted to further explore how water was determined to be safe or not safe. Fortunately, they had received sponsored Safe Drinking Water Foundation water testing kits, so they used the kits to test their local drinking water – the water they drink every day. They were pleased to learn that their well water passed all tests and is very safe. After the students used the Operation Water Drop kits, they submitted their results to the Safe Drinking Water Foundation's Operation Water Drop Test Results Submission Website. It was the first time that their class was able to contribute to national citizen science.

Spurred on by their curiosity about water, they decided to explore more water testing and they tested water samples from Pike Lake (an important water body in their community). The students' assumptions were proved to be correct as the raw (source) water was not safe to drink based on Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Incidentally, during their trip to collect water at Pike Lake, they saw a collection of litter – this litter included water bottle lids and a number of water bottles. This expedition led them to several big questions: how do water bottles affect their community? Where do water bottles go once they are recycled? Who is responsible for removing the litter from the water?

They contacted their local representative of the Pike Lake Cottage and Watershed to help them learn about the health of Pike Lake and how garbage (like plastic water bottles) may affect the habitat. From the presentation the local representative gave them and further independent investigations they quickly realized that single use water bottles were having a very negative impact on the environment both close to home and globally. Sadly, they learned that even though single use water bottles can be easily recycled, they are thrown away in huge numbers and end up in landfills. One of the most surprising facts they learned about plastic water bottles was that the lids are difficult and expensive to recycle and, as a result, even when lids are taken to recycling depots they are discarded and end up in landfills. After learning about this problem, the students decided to explore the issue of single use water bottles. Pike Lake students conducted an initial survey regarding attitudes about single use water bottles. They have developed a plan to take action to educate people about how to reuse plastic lids rather than just allowing the lids to go to waste. They are making a nature mural using the plastic lids to beautify their playground. After making their mural they plan to do a follow-up survey to see if they have changed attitudes about using single use water bottles and the plastic lids. Their school's newsletter and Pike Lake's Community School Association newsletter will be used to present a final report on how attitudes regarding single use water bottles have changed.

The students educated 250 people and, after educating the community, 95% of the survey respondents were correct when they responded to the question of from where their water comes.

Pike Lake School will receive at least one water bottle filling station, a commemorative plaque, and some more Safe Drinking Water Foundation water testing kits and/or reusable water bottles – a prize package worth a total of \$3,000!

Congratulations Pike Lake School!

Honourable Mention: A Homeschool in Regina

Four homeschooling students in Regina, Saskatchewan who are in grades 5, 7 and 8 educated themselves and observed simple everyday behaviours of how they use water in their home. They calculated the average time they took to take a shower, the number of times they flushed the toilet each day, and took note of how many times they washed their clothes. After recording their results, they watched videos on Safe Drinking Water Foundation's website and looked up information online (YouTube videos, City of Regina's website, and various other water websites).

With this information, they were able to analyze their results and learn about their own consumption and how they can do simple things to cut down on the amount of water they use each day. They visited the Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant (the water treatment plant that provides the treated water to Regina). They learned that during the winter months, the plant pumps out 100 million litres of water every day and, in the summer months, it increases to over 185 million litres of water per day. They learned about the water treatment process and about the issues (such as drought, power outages, infrastructure and mechanical breakdowns, and issues with pipes) that could happen that would cause a disruption in outflow from the water treatment plant. At the end of their tour, the water treatment plant manager confirmed to them that their city consumes a lot of water; in fact sometimes double that of developed countries in Europe.

The students educated 45 people and were able to educate and motivate people to conserve approximately 1,000 litres of water per day. Before educating their community only 27% of respondents knew from where their water comes and after educating their community, 100% of them knew from where their water comes – everyone now knows from where their water comes!

Safe Drinking Water Foundation provided the homeschool with some special water filtration bottles that they will use while travelling and with more water testing kits as a thank you for their great efforts!



David Leeder Middle School Won the Student Action on Canadian Drinking Water Attitudes Competition!

Thirty grade seven students at David Leeder Middle School in Mississauga, Ontario focused on Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. The students wanted to tackle the plastic pollution problem, specifically the use of single use plastics like plastic water bottles and drinking straws as part of their work on the “No.More.Plastic” global project and their ongoing work on the Roots and Shoots project initiative “Water: Sacred and Scarce”. Students had a No.More.Plastic booth set up in the gymnasium to inform community members about their initiative and their work on the project.

The students walked to the nearby Credit River and went on a “Trash Hunt”, collecting waste found in the Meadowvale Conservation Area. They created “Trashy Art” out of plastic that they turned into art pieces for STEAM Night on display for families and community members. To culminate their project work, students participated in the Junior Water Walkers’ “Walk for Water” to raise awareness of the importance of this valuable resources which is predicted to become more valuable than gold by the year 2030.

To culminate their work on this project, students will test their local tap water using Safe Drinking Water Foundation water testing kits and they will compare their results to those of other students from around the province and country. Students will then Skype with an Elder from the University of Manitoba and share their results with each other through video conference.

The students educated 1,250 people and were able to educate and motivate people to conserve over 250,000 litres of water per day! Before educating their community only 40% of respondents knew from where their water comes and after educating their community, 80% of them knew from where their water comes!

David Leeder Middle School will receive at least one water bottle filling station, a commemorative plaque, and some more Safe Drinking Water Foundation water testing kits and/or reusable water bottles – a prize package worth a total of \$3,000!

Congratulations David Leeder Middle School!

Meet Our Summer Youth Employee!

Rachel Waycott is our summer youth employee and our newest Education Programs Assistant!

She is a recent graduate from the University of Regina, having convocated with her B.Ed. in English and biology in June.




She is working on identifying links between the curriculum and our revamped Operation Water Spirit program.



Even in the Summer, You Can Purchase Hands-On Water Testing Kits to Engage Your Students in Active Learning!

Are you teaching summer school? Running a summer science camp? You can purchase Safe Drinking Water Foundation water testing kits in the summer! An Elementary Operation Water Drop kit can be used with an entire classroom of eager learners and only costs \$85. High School Operation Water Drop kits cost \$170 each. An Operation Water Pollution kit costs \$170 and is guaranteed to be reusable for at least two years – so all of the students in your school can use it! Operation Water Biology kits cost \$170 each.

To purchase kits:

-  Purchase kits on our website (www.safewater.org/order-kits)
-  Or phone us at 1-306-934-0389 and provide us with your Visa or MasterCard information.
-  Or mail a cheque payable to Safe Drinking Water Foundation to #1-912 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z6. We accept purchase orders too.

State of Drinking Water Quality in Canada

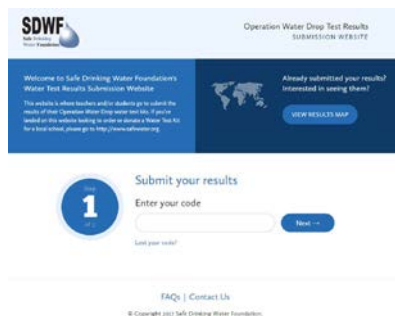
According to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1506514143353/1533317130660) as of May 31, 2019 there were 58 long-term (meaning the advisory has been in place for more than a year) drinking water advisories in effect in First Nations communities. In addition, according to Health Canada (www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/short-term-drinking-water-advisories-first-nations-south-60.html) as of June 26, 2019, there were 30 short-term Drinking Water Advisories in place in First Nations communities. These numbers include public water systems financially supported by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) but not systems in British Columbia and within the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

In total, across Canada, according to watertoday.ca (www.watertoday.ca) as of June 27, 2019 there were 1,045 Boil Water Advisories and 43 Do Not Consume Orders.

Reminder to Teachers: Please Don't Forget to Submit Your Students' Results to the Operation Water Drop Test Results Submission Website!

Please submit your students' Operation Water Drop (OWD) test results! Not only will you be involving your students in citizen science, but you will also receive a token of our appreciation! If you have used one or more OWD kits with your students, please go to testresults.safewater.org in order to enter their results. If you have lost your code(s) click on the Lost your code? link, enter your email address, and your code(s) will be emailed to you.

If you received a sponsored kit thanks to Lush, then you agreed to submit your students' OWD results after having used the kit; this was a condition of receiving a sponsored kit through this funding.



The screenshot shows the SDWF website interface for submitting OWD test results. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SDWF logo and the text 'Operation Water Drop Test Results SUBMISSION WEBSITE'. Below this, there are two columns of text. The left column says 'Welcome to Safe Drinking Water Foundations Water Test Results Submission Website' and provides instructions for users. The right column says 'Already submitted your results? interested in seeing them?' and includes a 'VIEW RESULTS NOW' button. Below these columns, there is a large blue button labeled '1' and the text 'Submit your results'. Underneath, there is a form with the label 'Enter your code' and a 'Next >>' button. At the bottom, there is a 'Lost your code?' link and a footer with 'FAQs | Contact Us' and '© Copyright 2017 Safe Drinking Water Foundation'.

As Little as \$85 Can Put Authentic Water Testing Materials in the Hands of 30 Elementary Students in Your Community!

There are hundreds of Canadian schools on the waiting list for sponsored kits - we are certain that at least one of the schools is near you! You can make it possible for a classroom of students to learn about water quality issues and solutions, be supported and encouraged in sharing knowledge with others and in taking action to alleviate drinking water quality issues, to participate in citizen science, and to test the water they drink every day, for as little as \$85. Please phone us at 1-306-934-0389 to find out more about how you can sponsor a kit for a school near you, or visit our homepage (www.safewater.org) where you will find an interactive map of all of the Canadian schools that are waiting for sponsored kits. Click on the school for which you would like to buy a kit and use our easy, online system to sponsor a kit for that school! You can make a difference in the lives of students!



Sign Up to Receive Drinking Water Quality News from Safe Drinking Water Team (SDWT)

The goal of SDWT is safe drinking water from every tap. The team members are First Nations water treatment operators and scientific advisors who help First Nations water treatment operators and rural water treatment operators with their water treatment challenges. SDWT also promotes the best available technology for water treatment and advocates for stricter guidelines and regulations for drinking water.

SDWT emails information about drinking water quality issues and solutions once a month. To receive this valuable information please visit www.safedrinkingwaterteam.org and enter your name and e-mail address at the bottom of the homepage to subscribe to their mailing list or send an e-mail with the subject "Subscribe" to safedrinkingwaterteam@gmail.com.

Check Out the Revamped Operation Water Spirit Program!

You can find our revamped Operation Water Spirit program here:





<https://www.safewater.org/operation-water-spirit>.

In the kindergarten to grade two lessons, students will build wind turbine models, have an Elder visit their classroom and ask him/her questions related to water, and much more. The grade three to five lessons involve math when the students colour percentages of pictures to represent the percentage of the human body that is water, involve English Language Arts when students complete a quick draw activity to show what they have learned from speaking with an Elder about water, and involve many other subject areas. Grade six to nine students tackle some larger projects like recording a podcast episode about a First Nations community's struggle to secure safe drinking water for its residents and writing a letter to the prime minister about current First Nations water issues. Grade ten to twelve students study specific water issues that have occurred or that are occurring in First Nations communities in great depth and create a Background Assessment document and Implementation Strategy document for one of the First Nations communities.

Planet Protector Academy's H2Whoa! Program

Planet Protector Academy's *H2Whoa!* program is a fun, engaging teaching resource on water conservation and protection that supports curriculum expectations for grades three to six. It is fully funded (no cost!) for teachers in Saskatchewan thanks to RBC Foundation.

The *H2Whoa!* resource helps you to:

-  Meet Saskatchewan curriculum expectations for grades three to six in science, arts, language, and social studies, as well as 21st century learning skills!
-  Save time with four pre-planned lessons that are approximately 60-90 minutes each – no training required.
-  Integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into your lessons, with content developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, culture keepers, and artists.
-  Engage diverse learners through a fun, arts-based and interdisciplinary approach.

For more information visit

<https://planetprotectoracademy.com/programs/?program=h2whoa>




Please Do One of the Smartest Things You Can Do to Improve the Drinking Water Quality Situation in Canada: Donate to Safe Drinking Water Foundation

You can make it possible for us to educate the leaders of today and tomorrow about drinking water quality issues and solutions by making a donation. Donors can choose to make one-time, monthly or annual donations. If organizations donate \$1,000 or more they will receive recognition in SDWF's quarterly newsletters twice, and if they donate \$10,000 or more they will also receive recognition on SDWF's website for one year (the SDWF website receives over 528,000 unique visitors per year) and their logo will include a hyperlink to their website. All donors are also thanked on our Facebook page and in our Facebook group. For more information, please visit:

www.safewater.org/donate

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation!

Donations can be made:

-  On our website (www.safewater.org/donate)
-  By phoning us at 1-306-934-0389 with your Visa or MasterCard information.
-  By mailing a cheque payable to Safe Drinking Water Foundation to #1-912 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z6.

Receipts for income tax purposes are issued for all donations of \$20 or more. If you have any questions or would like to simply phone us and make a donation with a Visa or MasterCard please do not hesitate to call us at 1-306-934-0389. Thank you!



Contact us:



info@safewater.org

OR



(306) 934-0389