

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA DETAILED ACTION PLAN

To the recommendations of the Report 3 - Access to Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities—ISC Report of the 2021 Reports 1 to 5 of the Auditor General of Canada

| Report Ref. No. | OAG Recommendation | Departmental Response | Description of Final Expected Outcome/Result | Expected Final Completion Date | Key Interim Milestones (Description/Dates) | New Status (No Progress/Insignificant Progress; Planning Stage; Preparation for Implementation; Substantial Implementation; Full Implementation; or MAP Change or Obsolete) | Revised or Completion Date [mm/dd/yy] | New Comment <i>Please provide status update to June 10, 2022 (Green Boxes Required)</i> (Risk Assessment, Impact and Mitigation) Yellow : In progress Green: Complete |
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| 1 | 3.40 Indigenous Services Canada should work with First Nations communities to strengthen efforts to eliminate all long-term drinking water advisories and prevent new ones from occurring. | In the Fall Economic Statement 2020, the Government of Canada committed an additional \$309 million to continue the work to address all remaining long-term drinking water advisories as soon as possible. Indigenous Services Canada will continue to actively work with First Nations to address drinking water issues, including by assessing the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on timelines and supporting the advancement of projects in a way that respects public health measures. This work is a continuation of the ongoing strategy to address each and every long-term drinking water advisory on public systems on reserves. | All long-term drinking water advisories in effect on public systems on reserve since November 2015 are resolved | FY 2023-24, depending on progress on projects and COVID-19 pandemic health and safety measures | 1.1. Through the LT DWA Action Plan, ISC will work with First Nations to invest \$309 million towards projects to address all remaining LT DWAs on public systems on reserve (Expected Completion: March 2022) | Substantial implementation | New expected completion date: March 2023 | <p>1.1. Through historic investments since 2016, the Government of Canada has made over \$5.6 billion in commitments to First Nations to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure on reserve, to better support the operation and maintenance of systems, to improve the monitoring and testing of community drinking water, and to support ongoing efforts to eliminate and prevent long-term drinking water advisories. This includes Budget 2021, through which the Government of Canada has committed an additional \$1.043 billion over 2 years, starting in 2022-2023, to support water and wastewater projects. Planning is underway to invest these funds to continue to support the planning, procurement, construction, and commissioning of water and wastewater projects, with projects to address long-term drinking water advisories being prioritized.</p> <p>Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$398 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to support community infrastructure on reserve, of which at least \$247 million will be directed toward water and wastewater infrastructure. This will support the completion of water and wastewater projects to ensure the lifting of long-term drinking water advisories and short-term drinking water advisories from public systems on reserve. New funding will support feasibility and design studies, and the construction, repair, or upgrade of water systems affected by a long-term or and short-term drinking water advisory, including long-term solutions.</p> <p>As of June 10, 2022, \$198 million of the \$309 million in acceleration funding committed as part of the 2020 Fall Economic Statement has been allocated towards projects to address all remaining LT DWAs. Due to project delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining funds will be allocated to continue projects in 2022-2023.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Should the funding not be allocated to projects as planned, progress to lift the remaining LT DWAs will be slower than anticipated.</p> <p>Impact: It will take longer for communities with a LT DWA in effect to have access to clean, safe drinking water.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: ISC continues to work with First Nations to invest funding to support projects to address</p> |

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| | | | | | | | all remaining LT DWAs as soon as possible. ISC will invest all \$309 million committed by March 2023. |
| | | | | 1.2. Through the LT DWA Action Plan, ISC will work with First Nations to invest future year program funding that may be obtained towards projects to address all remaining LT DWAs on public systems on reserve <u>(on-going, depending on progress on projects and COVID-19 pandemic health and safety measures)</u> | Preparations for Implementation | | <p>1.2. Since fiscal year 2016-17, and as of December 31, 2021, approximately \$649.7 million has been spent on 140 projects to address LT DWAs in First Nations communities. This includes targeted funding spent on infrastructure repairs, upgrades and new construction projects. It does not include operations and maintenance funding or funding spent on operator support and capacity building to address LT DWAs.</p> <p>Since November 2015, and as of June 10, 2022, First Nations, with support from ISC, have lifted 132 LT DWAs on public systems on reserves. Progress, and the action plans in place to address all remaining LT DWAs, are demonstrated on ISC's website: https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1506514143353/1533317130660</p> <p>Through historic investments since 2016, the Government of Canada has made over \$5.6 billion in commitments to First Nations to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure on reserve, to better support the operation and maintenance of systems, to improve the monitoring and testing of community drinking water, and to support ongoing efforts to eliminate and prevent long-term drinking water advisories. This includes Budget 2021, through which the Government of Canada has committed an additional \$1.043 billion over 2 years, starting in 2022-2023, to support water and wastewater projects. Planning is underway to invest these funds to continue to support the planning, procurement, construction, and commissioning of water and wastewater projects, with projects to address long-term drinking water advisories being prioritized.</p> <p>Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$398 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to support community infrastructure on reserve, of which at least \$247 million will be directed toward water and wastewater infrastructure. This will support the completion of water and wastewater projects to ensure the lifting of long-term drinking water advisories and short-term drinking water advisories from public systems on reserve. New funding will support feasibility and design studies, and the construction, repair, or upgrade of water systems affected by a long-term or and short-term drinking water advisory, including long-term solutions.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: There is a risk that on-going impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic could delay progress being made on on-going projects.</p> <p>Impact: As a result of project delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it will take longer for projects to be completed and, therefore, for First Nations to have access to clean water.</p> |

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| | | | | | | | <p>Impact: There may be a lack or loss of maintenance capacity, lower asset condition ratings, or shorter asset lifecycles.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: Budget 2019 and FES 2020 committed additional funds to increase support provided for O&M of water and wastewater infrastructure on reserves. Specifically, the additional funding will allow First Nations to improve water operator salaries and so better retain qualified operators in their communities and train new operators to build water maintenance capacity.</p> |
| | | | | <p>1.6. Working with First Nations, ISC will ensure monitoring programs continue to provide a final check on the overall safety of drinking water at tap in public water systems, semi-public water systems, cisterns and individual wells in First Nations communities (<u>ongoing</u>)</p> | Substantial implementation | | <p>1.6. All First Nations communities have access to trained personnel (Community-Based Drinking Water Quality Monitor or an Environmental Public Health Officer) to sample and test drinking water quality at the tap in all water systems, regardless of who funds the infrastructure. As a result of enhanced capacity, First Nations' and ISC's ability to detect potential problems sooner has improved.</p> <p>Budget 2021 announced \$125.2 million over four years, beginning in 2022-23, and \$31.3 million on-going thereafter to continue to support First Nations communities' reliable access to clean water and to help ensure the safe delivery of health and social services on reserve. This is the first time funding for this important public health function has been stabilized since the 1970s.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: The funding in Budget 2021 only stabilized existing resources first established in 2003 and did not address the service delivery gap that has continued to grow due to infrastructure investments, population growth, climate change and other factors. Without continuing monitoring programs, there is a risk that unsafe water will be provided to communities.</p> <p>Impact: First Nations could be exposed to unsafe drinking water.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: Through Budget 2021, ISC has obtained continued funding for monitoring programs to support First Nations communities' reliable access to clean water. Planning is underway to address the remaining funding gap.</p> |
| | | | | <p>1.7. ISC will continue to seek opportunities to obtain long-term stable funding for water and wastewater to ensure continued support beyond the \$553.4 million in funding for FY 2021-22 committed in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement (<u>ongoing</u>)</p> | Planning stage | | <p>1.7. As part of Budget 2021, the Government of Canada has committed an additional \$1.043 billion over 2 years, starting in 2022-23, to support water and wastewater projects. The funding will enable Indigenous Services Canada to continue to support the planning, procurement, construction, and commissioning of water and wastewater minor and major capital projects for both new builds, as well as system repairs and upgrades in First Nations communities.</p> <p>In addition, Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$398 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to support community infrastructure on reserve, of which, at least \$247 million will be directed toward water and wastewater infrastructure. This funding will support the</p> |

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| | | | | | | | | <p>completion of water and wastewater projects to ensure the lifting of long-term drinking water advisories and short-term drinking water advisories from public systems on reserve. It will also support infrastructure projects to increase sustainable access to clean drinking water on reserve.</p> <p>Additional planning is underway to obtain long-term stable funding beyond March 2024.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Without long-term and stable funding for water and wastewater infrastructure, ISC will not be able to provide sustainable investments and work in partnership with communities to prevent and end drinking water advisories.</p> <p>Impact: Lack of long-term and stable funding for water and wastewater may prevent ISC from supporting water and wastewater projects in First Nations communities.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: ISC continues to seek opportunities to obtain future year program funding. ISC also continues to support the AFN-led engagement process, which has identified the need to shift away from the Long-Term Water and Wastewater strategy in order to align with other initiatives. The AFN is exploring how this work will align with the broader work on closing the infrastructure gap, as well as potentially identifying other needs for water and wastewater systems beyond infrastructure, such as program needs to support water operators.</p> |
| 2 | <p>3.54: Indigenous Services Canada should work with First Nations communities to implement long-term solutions to ensure that water systems in First Nations communities provide ongoing access to safe drinking water.</p> | <p>Working with First Nations, Indigenous Services Canada will continue to support long-term measures to ensure that First Nations have ongoing access to safe drinking water.</p> | <p>Long-term solutions are in place to ensure sustainable access to potable water in all First Nations affected by a long-term drinking water advisory on a public system since 2015</p> | FY 2025-26 | <p>2.1 ISC will continue to work with First Nations to implement projects that address the long-term water needs of all communities affected by LT DWAs since 2015 (<u>Expected Completion: March 2026</u>)</p> | Preparations for Implementation | | <p>2.1. The department is supporting long-term solutions for all systems where LTDWAs were or will be lifted through interim solutions. These solutions are at varying stages of implementation, with many under construction.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Without long-term solutions in place to address the root causes of long-term drinking water advisories, there is risk that these advisories will recur.</p> <p>Impact: First Nations will not have access to clean drinking water in the long-term.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: ISC continues to work with First Nations to invest funding to support projects to meet communities' long-term water needs.</p> |
| | | | | | <p>2.2 ISC will continue to seek opportunities to obtain long-term stable funding for water and wastewater to ensure continued support beyond the \$553.4 million in funding for FY 2021-22 committed in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement (refer to item 1.7) (ongoing)</p> | Refer to Item 1.7 | Refer to Item 1.7 | 2.2 Refer to Item 1.7 |
| | | | | | | Full implementation | | |

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| | | <p>The department will continue to work with central agencies to ensure that long-term stable funding is available to commit toward these projects and to address the long-term needs of communities.</p> | | | <p>2.3 Working with First Nations, new investments in O&M from Budget 2019 (\$605.6 million over four years, starting in 2020–2021, and \$184.9 million per year ongoing) and the 2020 Fall Economic Statement (\$616.3 million over six years, and \$114.1 million per year thereafter) will be used to stabilize funding for First Nations, the Circuit Rider Training Program and other Regional initiatives, including through establishment of multi-year funding agreements to strengthen support programs (refer to item 1.4) (<u>Expected Completion: July 2021</u>)</p> | | <p>Actual completion: September 2021</p> | <p>2.3 Refer to Item 1.4</p> |
| | | <p>The department will continue to support operator training and retention and will work with partners to expand capacity building and operator support for First Nations. The department will continue to provide hands-on support to operators through the Circuit Rider Training Program.</p> | | | <p>2.4 ISC will work with First Nations partners to continue to support capacity building and operator training initiatives, such as regional water and wastewater hubs, and will support new and/or expanded First Nation-led initiatives such as regional operator associations, and training programs (<u>ongoing</u>)</p> | <p>Substantial Implementation</p> | | <p>2.4 ISC is working with various organizations on building operator capacity, diversity, networks, and innovative approaches. Organizations include, but are not limited to: Assembly of First Nations, Circuit Rider Trainer Professional Association, as well as technical and/or regional water and wastewater organizations. ISC is also working to support operator recruitment through the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's Technical Youth Career Outreach Project, which promotes water operator careers.</p> <p>On March 2, 2022, ISC launched a Call for Proposals to identify innovative capacity building measures to support water and wastewater operators on reserve. The call offered up to \$500,000 in funding per project, lasting up to two years, for new or expanded capacity building initiatives such as outreach, engagement, scoping studies, research, and pilot projects. A committee review process is underway to evaluate proposals for funding.</p> <p>Additional funding has also been allocated to regional offices to enable ISC to further support and expand additional operational capacity building initiatives. ISC had previously supported Res'eau's immersive training platform and Water Movement's online training videos. As well, ISC continues to support water and wastewater operator training through the Circuit Rider Training Program, the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's Technical Youth Career Outreach Project (TYCOP), phase 2 of the Native Women's Association of Canada's Watercarriers project, and the Hubs in Ontario.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Without ISC-funded support, there is a risk that First Nations communities will not have, nor retain, trained and certified water operators who are key to ensuring access to clean drinking water and reliable infrastructure.</p> <p>Impact: A lack of funding for training, certification, and maintenance capacity building may create challenges in retaining water operators or for operators to achieve the required certification levels.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: Budget 2019 and FES 2020 committed additional funds to increase support provided</p> |
| | | <p>Eliminating long-term drinking water advisories is only one aspect of ensuring sustainable access to clean drinking water. Indigenous Services Canada will continue to support First Nations-led engagement processes for the review of the 2013 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act with the objective of developing new water legislation accepted by both the federal government and First Nations and for the co-development of a long-term strategy to ensure that drinking water systems are sustainable.</p> | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | for O&M of water and wastewater infrastructure on reserves. Specifically, the additional funding will allow First Nations to better recruit and retain qualified water operators in their communities, by providing the financial support needed to attract qualified operators with higher salaries and provide appropriate operator training and development. It will also allow for further targeted capacity building investments to organizations and in current programming and for the Circuit Rider Training Program. |
| | | | | 2.5 ISC will continue to support the AFN-led engagement process for the review of the 2013 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act. The current round of AFN-led engagements with First Nations were completed at the end of March 2021. Another round of engagements led by the AFN is expected in fiscal year 2021-22 (<u>Expected Completion: March 2022</u>) | Full Implementation | Actual completion: March 2022 | 2.5. ISC provided the AFN with \$668,658 in funding to support another round of AFN-led engagement in fiscal year 2021-2022. ISC support for the AFN-led engagement process on review of the 2013 <i>Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act</i> is complete. On April 28, 2022, the proposed repeal of the 2013 <i>Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act</i> was introduced in the House of Commons as a related measure in <i>Budget Implementation Act, 2022, No. 1</i> : The repeal is under Part 5, Division 3 in the text of the Bill: https://parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-19 |
| | | | | 2.6 ISC will co-develop a legislative framework through a Joint Working Group. Approval of legislation is required, to enable development of a regulatory framework (<u>Expected Completion: December 2022</u>) | Preparations for Implementation | | 2.6. ISC has finalized the Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group. ISC and the AFN are now working to establish the Joint Working Group. Risk Assessment Statement: Without the establishment of a Joint Working Group to lead the co-development of a legislative framework, there is a risk that the framework for new legislation to replace the <i>Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act</i> will not be developed. Impact: Lack of a Joint Working Group may result in the lack of co-development, delayed consideration of new legislation and delayed development of a regulatory framework. Mitigation Strategy: ISC and the AFN have drafted Terms of Reference for a Joint Working Group on Safe Drinking Water that will develop a new legislative framework based on the results of engagements. ISC will also engage with other First Nations on request to support co-development of a legislative framework. |
| | | | | 2.7 ISC will continue to support the AFN-led engagement process for the co-development of a long-term strategy to ensure that drinking water systems are sustainable. The current round of AFN-led engagements with First Nations were completed at the end of March 2021, with further support to be provided in 2021-22 as the AFN-led engagement process continues (<u>Expected completion: March 2022</u>) | Substantial Implementation | New expected completion: March 2023 | 2.7 ISC continues to support the AFN-led engagement process for co-development of a long term strategy on water and wastewater. Funding has been finalized and transferred to the AFN for a fourth round of engagements in 2021-2022 (\$1,425,000). Due to COVID-19, no in-person engagements were held in 2020-21 and funds were carried forward into 2022-2023. In 2022-2023, the AFN expects to hold regional engagements on the long-term strategy as well as an in-person youth summit. The change in expected completion timelines is related to the AFN's desire to |

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| | | | | | | | <p>explore how to align this work with the broader work on closing the infrastructure gap by 2030.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Without ISC support, there is a risk that the AFN would not be able to complete their engagement process.</p> <p>Impact: Without completion of the AFN-led engagement, the AFN and the Department may not be able to complete co-development of the long-term strategy.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: ISC continues to support the AFN in leading the engagements with First Nations on the strategy. ISC will support the AFN in their exploration of how to pivot and align the long-term water and waste water strategy with broader work on closing the infrastructure gap.</p> |
| | | | | | 2.8 ISC will support the co-development of a long-term strategy for water and wastewater infrastructure (<u>Expected Completion: Winter 2022-23</u>) | Planning Stage | <p>2.8 Previous AFN led engagements identified the need to shift away from an isolated long-term strategy for water and wastewater in order to align with other initiatives. The AFN is exploring how to align with closing the gap by 2030 and pivot towards a longer term approach for all infrastructure. Upcoming AFN engagements will now target broader discussions such as water legislation, long-term infrastructure plans, and closing the gap by 2030.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Without a First Nations-informed long-term strategy, a long-term approach to service delivery for water and wastewater and transitioning services to First Nations care and control will be undefined and not supported by First Nations.</p> <p>Impact: The lack of a First Nations-informed long-term strategy for water and wastewater infrastructure may delay the transition of service delivery to First Nations care and control.</p> <p>Mitigation Strategy: ISC is working with the AFN to explore how the work intended for the long-term strategy could align with the broader work on closing the infrastructure gap.</p> |
| 3 | 3.61: Indigenous Services Canada should work with First Nations to proactively identify and address underlying deficiencies in water systems to prevent recurring advisories. | Indigenous Services Canada will continue to work with First Nations to conduct performance inspections of water systems annually and asset condition assessments every 3 years to identify deficiencies. The department will proactively work with communities to address those deficiencies and prevent recurring advisories. | Mechanisms are in place to improve the sustainability of water systems in First Nations communities. | FY 2022-23 | 3.1 ISC will continue to conduct performance inspections of water systems annually and asset condition assessments every three years, including expanding the <i>extended asset condition assessment</i> process to better support planning for O&M and recapitalization needs. Based on these assessments ISC will continue to work with communities to address any identified deficiencies, while respecting health and safety measures implemented by communities during the COVID-19 pandemic (<u>ongoing</u>) | Substantial Implementation | <p>3.1. Working with First Nations communities and organizations, ISC continues to support annual performance inspections of water systems and triennial asset condition assessments, where conditions permit subject to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>ISC piloted the extended asset inspection program in fiscal year 2021-2022 and received positive feedback on the lifecycle needs information provided for each asset.</p> <p>In fiscal 2022-2023, ISC implemented the extended asset inspections as the national standard for inspections of on-reserve ISC-funded assets.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Statement: Lack of Annual Performance Inspections (API) and Asset Condition</p> |

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| | | | | | | | Reporting System (ACRS) assessment data will hinder ISC and First Nation abilities to address water and wastewater system deficiencies. Impact: Higher risk ratings could result, and First Nations' infrastructure lifespans may be shorter than expected. Mitigation Strategy: ISC is conducting a review of its API process and continues to pilot extended asset condition assessments to better support planning for O&M and recapitalization. | |
| | | <i>Through the funding announced as part of the Fall Economic Statement 2020, the department will further increase support for the operation and maintenance of water systems, enabling First Nations to better sustain their infrastructure. The department will continue to support operator training and retention and will work with partners to expand capacity building and operator support for First Nations. The department will continue to provide hands-on support to operators through the Circuit Rider Training Program.</i> | | | 3.2 ISC has allocated \$140 million in one-time O&M top-ups to First Nations for fiscal year 2020-21 (2020 Fall Economic Statement increase to O&M funding) to bring funding levels up to (or beyond) 100% of formula funding. To allocate funding in future years, beginning in 2021-22, ISC will develop a new O&M funding methodology to better reflect actual O&M costs and support the ability to implement a new O&M policy (<u>Expected Completion: July 2021</u>) | Full Implementation | Actual completion: July 2021 | 3.2. The O&M allocations for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 have been determined based on an updated O&M formula that seeks to better account for O&M costs. The fundamental formula methodology does not change (unit cost x quantity x city centre index x remoteness index), but has been updated using data from recent industry costing studies and available regional cost data. Additionally, the indices (city centre and remoteness) have been modernized. The updated formula provides for new asset-based funding levels to address longstanding concerns raised by First Nations communities, including funding to reflect technological advances, industry best practices, applicable water and wastewater standards, and operator training, certification and retention. |
| | | <i>The department will continue to support the First Nations-led engagement process for the development of a long-term strategy to ensure that drinking water systems are sustainable.</i> | | | 3.3 ISC will work with First Nations partners to continue to support capacity building and operator training initiatives, such as regional water and wastewater hubs, and will support new and/or expanded First Nation-led initiatives such as regional operator associations, and training programs (refer to item 2.4) (<u>ongoing</u>) | Refer to Item 2.4. | Refer to Item 2.4. | 3.3 Refer to Item 2.4. |
| | | <i>Furthermore, the department will continue to support the development of a more holistic asset management approach that allows for better forecasting and the ability to account for future infrastructure investment requirements while engaging on operations and maintenance policy reform.</i> | | | 3.4 ISC will continue to support the AFN-led engagement process for the co-development of a long-term strategy to ensure that drinking water systems are sustainable. The current round of AFN-led engagements with First Nations were completed at the end of March 2021, with further support to be provided in 2021-22 as the AFN-led engagement process continues (refer to item 2.7) (<u>Expected Completion: March 2022</u>) | Substantial Implementation | New expected completion: March 2023 | 3.4 Refer to Item 2.7. |
| | | | | | 3.5 ISC will support the co-development of a long-term strategy for water and wastewater infrastructure (refer to item 2.8) (<u>Expected Completion: Winter 2022-23</u>) | Refer to Item 2.8. | Refer to Item 2.8. | 3.5 Refer to Item 2.8. |

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| | | | | | 3.6 ISC will continue to work with First Nations to advance O&M policy reform as part of broader work towards an asset management approach (<u>Expected Completion: Summer 2022</u>) | Full Implementation | Actual completion: April 2022 | <p>3.6 ISC must advance O&M policy reform as part of broader work towards asset management to proactively identify and address underlying deficiencies in water systems to prevent recurring advisories.</p> <p>Engagement on operation and maintenance policy reforms resulted in recommendations for a holistic approach to asset management including to implement a more comprehensive inspection program and to support asset management planning activities for First Nations.</p> <p>Actions Taken: Through Budget 2021, ISC expanded the Asset Management Program and implemented the comprehensive inspection program and the extended asset condition assessments as a the national standard for inspections going forward. These inspections were piloted in 2021-2022 and are now being implemented (beginning April 2022).</p> <p>Impact: Enhancements to the Asset Management Program and comprehensive inspections support First Nations in better understanding their assets current deficiencies, ongoing requirements, and future lifecycle needs. In addition, the information provided through the comprehensive inspections can also provide First Nations with information needed for the development of their asset management plans. It should be noted that it will take time for the benefit of these new measures to be fully realized, as the inspections are done on a three-year cycle</p> <p>Links to the external webpages for both programs are provided here:</p> <p>-Extended Asset Condition Reporting System program (sac-isc.gc.ca)</p> <p>-Asset Management Program (sac-isc.gc.ca)</p> |
| 4 | <p>3.77: Indigenous Services Canada, in consultation with First Nations, should make it a priority to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the amount of funding needed by First Nations to operate and maintain drinking water infrastructure • amend the existing policy and funding formula to provide First Nations with sufficient funding to operate and maintain drinking water infrastructure | <p>Indigenous Services Canada will continue to work with First Nations partners to ensure that sufficient water and wastewater operations and maintenance funding is provided and to amend associated policies.</p> | A new O&M policy is co-developed with First Nations | FY 2022-23 | <p>4.1 ISC has allocated \$140 million in one-time O&M top-ups to First Nations for fiscal year 2020-21 (2020 Fall Economic Statement increase to O&M funding) to bring funding levels up to (or beyond) 100% of formula funding. To allocate funding in future years, beginning in 2021-22, ISC will develop a new O&M funding methodology to better reflect actual O&M costs and support the ability to implement a new O&M policy (refer to item 3.2) (<u>Expected Completion: July 2021</u>)</p> <p>4.2 ISC will continue to work with First Nations to advance O&M policy reform as part of broader work towards an asset management approach (refer to item 3.6) (<u>Expected Completion: April 2023</u>)</p> | <p>Full Implementation</p> <p>Refer to Item 3.6.</p> | <p>Actual completion: July 2021</p> <p>Refer to Item 3.6.</p> | <p>4.1 Refer to Item 3.2.</p> <p>4.2 Refer to Item 3.6.</p> |

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| 5 | 3.90: Indigenous Services Canada, in consultation with First Nations, should develop and implement a regulatory regime for safe drinking water in First Nations communities. | Indigenous Services Canada will continue to support the Assembly of First Nations in its lead role in the engagement process. The department will continue to work collaboratively and in full partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, other First Nations and First Nations organizations, and other federal departments to develop a legislative framework that can be presented to Cabinet. Once new legislation is passed, regulations can be developed. | A legislative framework is developed and best efforts will be made to introduce a new legislation that will support safe drinking water in First Nations communities, and that will be supported by First Nations | FY 2022-23 | 5.1 ISC will continue to support the AFN-led engagement process for the review of the 2013 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act. The current round of AFN-led engagements with First Nations were completed at the end of March 2021, with further support to be provided in 2021-22 as the AFN-led engagement process continues (refer to item 2.5) (Expected Completion: <u>March 2022</u>) | Full Implementation | Actual completion: March 2022 | 5.1 Refer to Item 2.5. |
| | | | | | 5.2 ISC will co-develop a legislative framework through a Joint Working Group. Approval of legislation is required, to enable development of a regulatory framework (refer to item 2.6) (Expected Completion: <u>December 2022</u>) | Refer to Item 2.6. | Refer to Item 2.6. | 5.2 Refer to Item 2.6. |