



Canadian
Water
Network

Integrated Water Management : The Changing Frame of Aboriginal Access

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WRC Water Summit and Tech Symposium
Universal Access, Wherever you Are
Boksburg, South Africa, Sept.16 2015



Canadian
Water
Network

*Canada's premier
water research management
organization*

*Active within Priority Areas for Canada,
where water is key to solutions.*



Resilient Blue Cities:

Moving to adaptive,
resilient municipal
water management



Energy and Resources:

Economic success
through environmental
and public health
protection



Agriculture and Water:

Meeting domestic and
global demand while
protecting Canada's
competitive water
advantage



**Small and Aboriginal
Communities:**

Enabling sustainable
management and safe
drinking water



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Water Management in in Canada

Dominantly a public issue in regulation, responsibility, practice and management

- Federal Government has some key legislative responsibilities (including Transboundary, First Nations and Federal Lands)
- Provinces (10) and Territories (3) level have the majority of regulatory and management oversight
- Local Governments deliver and manage most of the services

Many Interests = “Patchwork” Governance

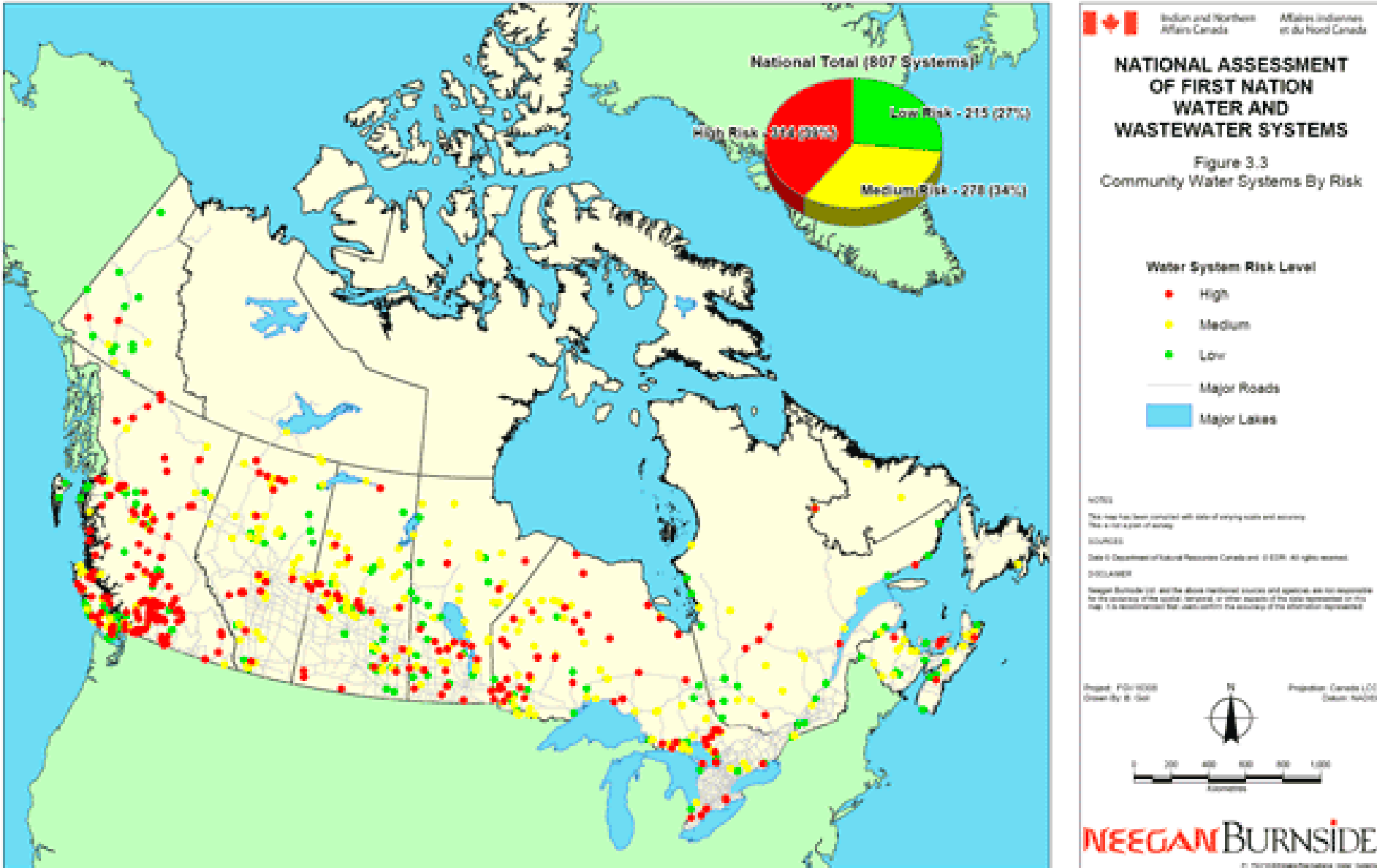


Small and Aboriginal Communities: Achieving Sustainable Management and Safe Water

Continues to be one of Canada's key challenges

- **Hundreds of Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Communities**
- **Some in existence > 10 years**
- **Shoal Lake Manitoba – Advisory in Effect for 17 years – same water supply for Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**Not primarily a reflection of lack of technological “know how” –
Issues of governance/management are large**



www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca (2011 report)

Increasing Profile of Aboriginal Issues in Canada

Last 10 years --Increasing recognition and “profile” for Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) role in decisions about resource management, including water.

- Existing responsibilities of the Crown in resource decisions– including “duty to consult” (e.g., pipelines, hydraulic fracturing, mining)
- 2014 Tsilhqot’in Supreme Court Decision -- affirmed rights and title
- 2013 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act –enables creation of enforceable standards



Case Study for Positive Progress: Northwest Territories

Leadership example in collaborative decision making around water and resources, including clear Aboriginal role.



Integrated Decision Making – Governance, Law and Politics

“Integrated Water Management”

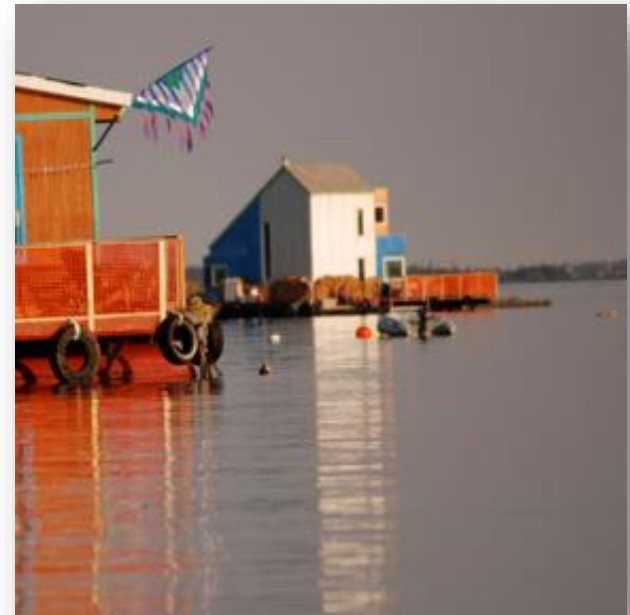
Focus on need for more integrated decision making --
must link to legal and political context



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Case Study: Northwest Territories

- **Political Context:** Devolution of Powers from Federal gov't to more of a province-like status. (2014)
- Determining how they will “do business” under devolution
- Extensive commitment to collaboration with Aboriginal peoples
- **Policy Context:** *Northern Voices, Northern Waters* Strategy (2010).
- **Legal Context**– Rights and Title, Land Claims and Treaty Issues, “Duty to Consult”, and Transboundary agreements (including USA).



NWT –Transboundary Agreements

(www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca/transboundary)

- History of Transboundary Approaches; Mackenzie Basin (1970's; 1997 Master Plan) Mackenzie River Basin Board
- NWT-Yukon agreement (2002)
- NWT: New bilateral agreements with British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Alaska (USA), Federal (Canada)
- NWT-Alberta (Completed March, 2015)
 - Interest-based negotiations
 - Significant up-front consultation to define priorities, values, needs
 - Protect, not replace, Aboriginal/treaty rights
 - Comprehensive and forward-looking
 - Agreement has ecological integrity approach



Thanks and other resources

- Thanks to Merrell-Anne Phare (@pharethoughts)

- CWN research

<http://www.cwn-rce.ca/project-library/#category=first-nations-inuit-and-metis&start=0>

RES' EAU WaterNet:

<http://www.reseauwaternet.ca/>

Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources:

<http://www.uinr.ca/>

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