



## OUR KEY PROGRAMS

### **Asset Management**

Conduct inspections and report on the condition of community infrastructure assets.

### **Circuit Rider Trainer Program**

Provide training and support for water and wastewater treatment plant operators.

### **Environmental Management**

Provide environmental management and planning services, training and outreach.

### **Fire Protection**

Provide fire prevention programming, inspection services, fire department assessments, strategic planning support and training opportunities for fire personnel.

### **Information Technology**

Deliver information technology services such as high speed internet, IT support, eHealth and Telehealth solutions.

### **Youth Initiatives**

Facilitate learning and training opportunities to promote careers in science and technology.

## About TSAG...

The idea of TSAG began in 1996 and was created from Chiefs of Alberta to develop, build and deliver core technical services to Alberta First Nation communities. TSAG has grown in programs, services and staff over the past 20 years and continues to provide quality technical services and training. Our staff of professionals are diverse in culture and knowledge, and understand the complexity of challenges facing First Nation communities today.

TSAG is mandated by the Chiefs of Alberta and takes direction from a Chiefs Steering Committee and Board of Directors made up of representatives from Treaty 6, 7 and 8.

### **In this issue:**

- Rural addressing system
- Level II Prep course
- HCAP Workshop
- Celebrating 20 years!
- TSAG Youth
- CMHC Inspections
- Telehealth Network
- Grader Operator Course
- IT Department
- Transfer Station
- Sustainable Communities
- Summer Students
- Upcoming Events

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# RURAL ADDRESSING SYSTEM



GOOGLE MAP—ALEXANDER FIRST NATION



**Where do you live?** It's a pretty simple question, but when you live on reserve the answer can be either very vague or long and drawn out. Most answers will consist of “go to the powwow grounds and head 2 miles North, take a left after the blue house with the swing set, drive till there's a big curve and then our driveway is the third on the left.” Landmark based directions give rise to many problems whether you're directing an ambulance at 2am or trying to get a new couch or pizza delivered.

TSAG has been working closely with First Nation communities to develop road and addressing networks in a format that is recognized by emergency response teams. The first step is to map out all the roads and a team assigned by the Nation assigns names to each. Once the roads are named, addresses are assigned to each building using a system that allows for future growth. Once complete, and upon approval from Chief and Council, the roads and addresses are uploaded to the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership (AMDSP) as well as to Google Maps. The next step in the process is public education and ensuring that members of the community know what their new address is.

Alexander First Nation is the first to have their roads appear on Google Maps. Now, when navigating in Alexander FN, Google Maps will give you turn by turn directions to most addresses. Emergency services have decreased response times with the implementation of road addressing. To inform members of the address change, TSAG will be giving out address magnets at Alexander Treaty Days.

For those who might be concerned that this too much information will be shared, we want you to know that no confidential type information (occupants or buildings) is shared with either the AMDSP or Google Maps. The only data that is shared is the: road names, addresses, and information about the roads themselves—such as speed limits and surface material.

TSAG has received requests from several nations to help generate road addressing networks and we will be working with 6 nations this year. For more information on the Rural Addressing System, please contact Elaine Stone, GIS Technician.





## *Housing Condition Assessment Program*

### *Workshop*

An invitation was sent to all AB First Nations that took part in HCAP. Suggestions, recommendations, challenges and solutions were discussed for both the HCAP app and database.

HCAP is a tool used for evaluation and record of physical conditions of housing units to inform short and long term maintenance planning and identification of future housing needs.



- 2016-2017 (Pilot) - 9 Nations participated, 1687 units were assessed.
- 2017-2018 – New app (GEOODK) and revised form introduced. 9 Nations trained and 1029 units were assessed.
- 2018-2019 – 8 Nations trained and a second revision of the form is created, along with the new app (My Mobile Community) 375 units assessed to date.
- In total, 25 Nations have been trained and 21 are moving forward with the program.
- 2018-2019—Expansion of HCAP to BC and Yukon. 17 Nations trained in BC and 12 First Nations trained in Yukon.



## Level II Preparation Course for Water Treatment Operators

The Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act requires that specified water and wastewater facilities in Alberta have certified operators carry out day-to-day operations .

During the third week of April TSAG held the AWWOA Level II Prep course for Water Treatment Operators. Our very own Circuit Rider Trainers, Shannon Gladue and Rod Badger instructed this course, a first time delivery by TSAG.

The material for this course focuses on source water considerations, water parameters and characteristics, individual treatment processes, performance optimization, support systems, process control parameters, chemical handling, laboratory analysis and safety integration. Not an easy grasp by any means!

Acknowledgement goes out to the operators for working towards obtaining credentials to better their jobs and their community water plants.



CONGRATULATIONS

## BERTHA CARDINAL

### 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Bertha has been with TSAG from the beginning and is the first voice you'll hear when calling our office. She has been part of the growth and success of the organization and always offers a friendly smile. Bertha's hard work is greatly appreciated by all staff, current and past.







## TSAG Youth

May was also a busy month for our Youth team! They've done it all, from attending career and science fairs in the Treaty 8 region, hosting Water Field Days in Big Horn and Tsuut'ina, to conducting classroom presentations in Siksika and Kehewin on conserving water, source water, showing off our invertebrate collection and watershed model to attending CHP Water Workshops, our Outreach Coordinators are in your community.



TSAG's Outreach Coordinator, Eagle Willier attended the National Indigenous Youth Conference in Enoch, AB as well as the Samson Career Fair. She sets up the TSAG booth and talks to youth and other attendees about TSAG's services, training opportunities and upcoming events. At these 2 events alone she met with over 200 people!

TSAG also offers modified water field days for students in all grades. Our Outreach Coordinators Eagle and Alex, have modified presentations available for your students to learn about water conservation, careers in water/wastewater and indicators in determining good quality water such as studying the water chemistry and invertebrate. Two water field days took place in April, one in Maskwacis and one in O'Chiese. In total almost 200 youth took part in these modified water field days.

Let us know if you would like to find out how TSAG can come to your school and offer these educational programs.

# CMHC INSPECTIONS



TSAG was the successful proponent for All of Alberta First Nations to complete CMHC Inspections for the following CMHC Programs: Section 95 Housing, Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), Physical Conditions Review (PCR) and the Emergency Repair Program (ERP). TSAG's Inspections Coordinator, Nick Kootenhayoo, began this role in January 2019 and has been actively receiving Technical Services Requests (TSR) from CMHC.

This was a huge project to undertake and Nick has graciously taken it on and successfully secured sub-contractors, complete project management as well as invoicing responsibilities! Additionally, we are hearing huge kudos on the level of quality of our sub-contractors as well as amazing feedback on the professionalism and ease of the process. Over the past 3 months Nick and his team of professionals have completed 166 inspections.



## Recently Recorded Sessions on the Telehealth Network

Visit the First Nations Telehealth Network Portal ([www.fntn.ca](http://www.fntn.ca)) for a full list of all upcoming events.

- ⇒ Free Roaming Dogs and Waste Management. Presented by Pam Haggarty and Alanna Collicutt. Pam Haggarty is the team lead for TSAG sustainable communities. Pam is a long-time educator who has found a new career direction in waste management and is a director on the Recycling Council of Alberta. Alanna Collicutt is the Dog Care and Control Program Manager with the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force .
- ⇒ Health Link 811: Myth Busters. Presented by Yvonne Ewanicke (pronounced Evonic) is the Site Manager for the Edmonton office of 811. She is a registered nurse by profession and has a Master's degree in Health Management. She has been working at Health Link for the last 18 years. She started working as a nurse on the line and eventually moved into a management role. She has been the Site Manager for the last 5 years.





## Grader Operators Course

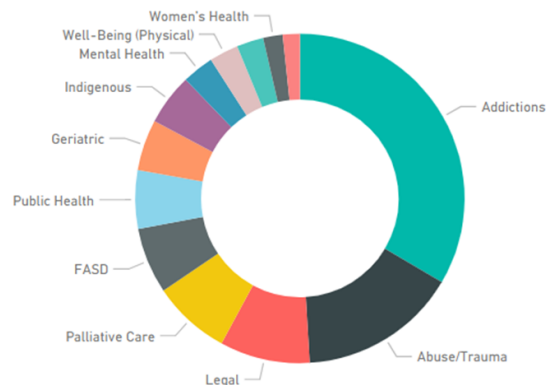
This is the third Gravel Road Maintenance course for Grader Operators that TSAG has partnered with Olds College for. In this 4-day course Operators are given classroom and field instruction consisting of Safety, Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation, Surface and Shoulder, Surface Gravel, Drainage, and much more. This year we had 17 people (eight people from Treaty 6, six people from Treaty 7, and three people from Treaty 8) take part and obtain certification.

## First Nations Telehealth Network

The First Nations Telehealth Network introduced four new education series during the reporting year. The series were Trauma Information Series, FASD, Harm Reduction Series and Diabetes 101 series. The FNTN offered series moderation, session advertising, registration management and scheduling for each series. More than half of the advertised sessions are recorded and can be accessed anytime on the FNTN website. All recorded videos in the 18/19 fiscal period have been watched more than 4300 times.

The First Nations Telehealth Network is determined to reduce barriers in accessing videoconference sessions. Live stream and audio lines are available for anyone who wants to participate but cannot attend from a videoconference unit.

FNTN Session Registrations



Top 5 Education Session Types

Name	Registrations
Public Health	89
Nutrition	104
Diabetes	127
Communicable Disease Control	79
Addictions	151

***Each education series is recorded and is available online at the First Nations Telehealth Network Portal ([www.fntn.ca](http://www.fntn.ca)).***



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## IT DEPARTMENT

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Working with a communications vendor, TSAG designed and installed a system of radios in the three Little Red River Cree nations. The handheld radios allow for communication between health staff, paramedics, security staff as well as medivac crews. These radios fill a gap due to the lack of reliable cellular infrastructure in the communities. The radios can also make telephone calls using VOIP technology allowing for quicker response times and increased safety to healthcare workers providing care.

Through the federal Connect To Innovate program, Arrow Technology Group has been constructing a dedicated high speed fibre optic backbone to the Little Red River Cree nations. Formerly the communities had fibre optic infrastructure within each community however the long distance from High Level to each nation was served by an oversubscribed wireless link. The fibre optic backbone will allow for limitless growth and will provide the means for all connected communities to embrace the digital economy as well as serve schools, health centres and other businesses with the capacity to thrive.



# TELEHEALTH

## Stoney Health Fair

TSAG was invited to the Stoney Health Fair in June. Two of our staff members showcased how the First Nation Telehealth Network provides both clinical and education services to the Nation. Clinical sessions allow patients to remain in Stoney while receiving quality health care needed to reduce stresses of travel.



ALEXANDER  
FIRST NATION

## ALEXANDER FIRST NATION TRANSFER STATION

Alexander has a new approach to waste management. Bill Paul, Director of Public Works and Infrastructure, has been instrumental in making changes to the existing site. In the capable hands of newly hired Site Supervisor, Reselle and Site Operator, Kristy, the site will now be clean and organized.

Members can bring the following items for recycling: *scrap metal and appliances, electronics, tires, and paint.*

# [Sustainable Communities]

Our Sustainable Communities Outreach Coordinator, Alex LaForce, went south to the Wesley Nation's Taotha School. With majority of the students in attendance, we worked together to collect debris and clean the school grounds, into the surrounding wooded area. There are potential plans to develop the site into a camping area. Continuing on with the youth from the afterschool program, we cleaned the local streets holding large amounts of garbage and windblown trash.

Youth also took in a great presentation on solid waste management, new changes in the community, future endeavours and why littering oil based single use plastics is so tough on our environment (locally and globally). These teachings were contrasted with cultural/traditional/land-based-learning means of production (examples of plastic, metal, steak knife vs antler stone blades, and synthetic fibers vs buffalo wool; and discussion around new modern single-use plastic alternatives that are coming full circle to being compostable- aka Abeegowraps.

The original plan to get the kids into the new garden was altered due to a snow filled morning. Working together we built a new front flower bed in the muddy area by the front entrance's sign. The materials were simply logs that we found from nearby and topsoil from the old Pow Wow ground's paddock. Plants and flowers were provided for the students to plant the following Monday with the CEO/Public Works Director John Heshka.

Alex has also been working with the Sturgeon Lake First Nations Mental Health Greenspace at the Health Centre on planning, design and implementing their new garden. More to come on this project.







### ***Data-Entry Clerks***

TSAG is happy to welcome Braydee and Cassandra to the team for the summer as part of our Skills Link Program. These young ladies will be working with our LOUIS Toolkit and gaining other administrative skills from spreadsheets and reporting, to covering the front desk duties. We look forward to having them as part of our team this summer!

Under the Skills Link Program TSAG is able to offer employment to First Nation youth that are under the age of 30. They are provided with the opportunity to learn skills and gain confidence required for entering the workforce.

***"I enjoyed learning how to manage information" - Brittany, 2018 Skills Link Program participant***



### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INTERN**

My name is Arlene Sams and I have the wonderful opportunity of working with TSAG's Sustainable Communities as an Intern. I am a band member of Whitefish Lake First Nation #459 and live in Edmonton, AB. My background is in land administration and I have experience working on federal, provincial and freehold lands. I will be providing support to TSAG's Solid Waste Management (SWM) program and staff. I am extremely grateful for the training and mentorship that I will be provided as a TSAG Sustainable Communities Intern.



# Upcoming Events



**Environmental Youth Camp**  
 July 21-26, 2019, Centre for Outdoor Education (COE) located 10km west of Nordegg, Alberta

Are you interested in kayaking, rafting, and climbing in the Rocky Mountains? If so, First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) Inc. is hosting its Environmental Youth Camp for First Nation students in grades 9-12, and we welcome your application!

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 28, 2019**



**How to apply**  
 There is an application and selection process. Students must submit a reference letter from a teacher or other responsible adult (no family members please) and write us a short letter about the following topic: What is Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)? Describe two ways that you can learn TEK in your community?

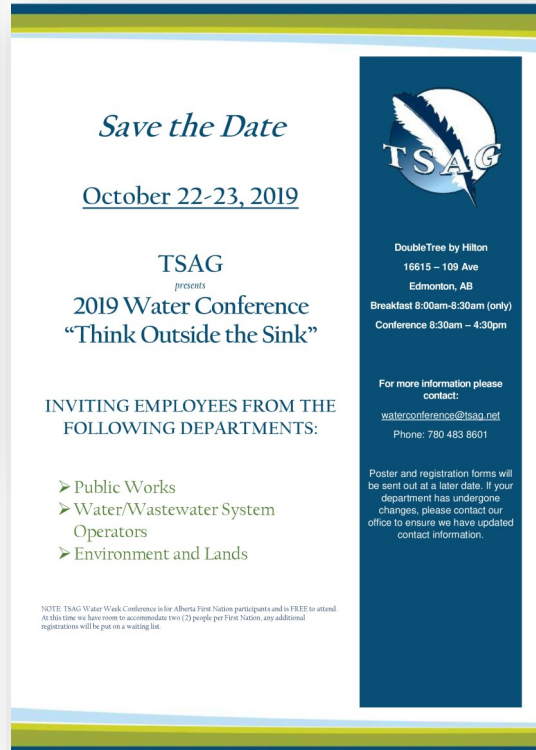
Incomplete applications will not be considered. Beyond our enrollment limit (20 participants), qualified applicants will be placed on a waitlist and admitted as places may become available. We accept up to 3 applicants per Alberta First Nation.

TSAG is covering the cost of the camp. Successful applicants will be sent a list of basic personal items to bring. Lodging and food are provided. There is also a potential for CTS high school credit for participants.

For more information and to register, please contact:  
**Eagle Willier at ewillier@tsag.net or call (780-483-8601).**  
**www.tsag.net**

Our annual Water Conference is taking place this fall. The conference provides information, workshops, and presentations all water related to those in the water field. Keep an eye out for the poster and registration form.

TSAG's annual Environmental Youth Camp provides youth between grades 9-12 with an opportunity to take part in outdoor activities such as kayaking and rock climbing, along with taking part in a variety of presentations from source water, water testing, cultural crafts, and more. Contact our office to see if there are seats available or to get more information.

*Save the Date*

October 22-23, 2019

TSAG  
 presents  
**2019 Water Conference**  
**"Think Outside the Sink"**

INVITING EMPLOYEES FROM THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

- Public Works
- Water/Wastewater System Operators
- Environment and Lands

NOTE: TSAG Water Works Conference is for Alberta First Nation participants and is FREE to attend. At this time we have room to accommodate two (2) people per First Nation, any additional registrations will be put on a waiting list.

DoubleTree by Hilton  
 16615 - 109 Ave  
 Edmonton, AB  
 Breakfast 8:00am-8:30am (only)  
 Conference 8:30am - 4:30pm

For more information please contact:  
 waterconference@tsag.net  
 Phone: 780 483 8601

Poster and registration forms will be sent out at a later date. If your department has undergone changes, please contact our office to ensure we have updated contact information.

*Circuit Rider Training Program upcoming courses will include:*

- ◆ *Fire Hydrant Operation and Maintenance 2-day course*
- ◆ *Level II Water Distribution Prep course*
- ◆ *Small Systems course*

*Stay up-to-date with information by checking our website and following us on Facebook.*



## Did you know...

In May 2012 TSAG acquired 51% of SIS Strategic Information Systems. The merger was created to combine complementary strengths, diverse networks and shared missions, and to create a larger, stronger, more technically diversified company with a broad array of products and services.

Together, our companies will be better positioned to grow and provide greater value to our respective customer base by expanding technology, gateway, wireless and fiber services.

ATG Arrow Technology Group Ltd .

[http://www.atg.net/about\\_arrow.html](http://www.atg.net/about_arrow.html)



First Nation Benefit Brokers Ltd. is available to get you the best benefit package available to your community. They will also provide education and training to your staff to better understand benefits and work with you navigate NIHB.

Do you have questions about retirement? Do you want benefit profits shared with your community?

Contact FNBB!



**Your community is unique.**

You should only pay for the benefits you actually need.

**Our experienced advisors  
can help create the plan  
that is right for you.**

780 988 8021 [www.fnbb.ca](http://www.fnbb.ca)



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