

ONEIDA NATION OF THE THAMES

POLITICAL OFFICE
2210 ELM AVENUE, RR #2
SOUTHWOLD, ONTARIO
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TELEPHONE: (519) 652-6161

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On **March 22, 2023** We reached an agreement with Indigenous Services Canada to supply clean drinking water to Oneida Nation of the Thames.

Frequently Asked Questions: Water Infrastructure Project

1) What is the state of our current water supply system?

We have a quality and quantity water issue at Oneida. As well known by all residents, we've been on a boil water advisory since 2019 because current infrastructure does not meet provincial or federal standards. As well, given our current infrastructure, our fire flow – the quantity of water available for fire-protection purposes - is inadequate for population growth in our community.

2) How will the Water Treatment System Upgrade Project help?

By implementing a new water infrastructure, we will be accessing clean drinking water. The project is also a long-term solution – with a 20-year outlook for growth within the community.

3) Where will we be getting the water from?

We will be accessing water from the Lake Huron water supply system. Lake Huron services the municipalities of London, Lambton Shores, North Middlesex, South Huron, Bluewater, Middlesex Centre, Lucan-Biddulph and Strathroy-Caradoc from a water treatment plant located north of the village of Grand Bend in South Huron. The plant has a current treatment capacity of 340 million litres per day (75 million Imperial gallons per day) and serves a population of approximately 375,000 people.

If you would like more information about Lake Huron water system, please visit their website here - [Lake Huron & Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems | About Us \(huronelginwater.ca\)](https://www.huronelginwater.ca)

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4) What are the timelines for this project?

The project will take between 18 -24 months to complete. Our first step is to hire a Project Manager. The project will consist of:

- Project Plan (including a communication plan)
- A detailed design
- An overall budget
- Tenders for labor and possible other costs
- Construction

5) What is the cost of this project? Who is paying for this?

The estimated cost for the clean water connection is \$43 million. This will be fully determined when the detailed design is complete. Indigenous Services Canada will be paying for the entire project, including additional funding for fire-flow, once deemed necessary based on population growth.

6) Will there be employment opportunities for our community?

Once the detailed design has been completed, we will have a better idea of the skills required to complete the project. There will be a focus on training and employment opportunities for Oneida community members. Jobs and contracted positions will be posted as they become available.

7) Will there be a cost to households for water service?

There will be no cost for residential community members. However, commercial use of water will incur a cost. The cost will be determined with the detail design.

8) Can we expect any interruptions to service during construction?

No. Our current system will continue to run until the new system is in place.

9) How does this impact my household? E.g., will new pipeline infrastructure need to be built to my house?

This detail will be determined during the design phase. While new pipelines are required, the team will need to map the requirements based on several environmental and geographic factors.

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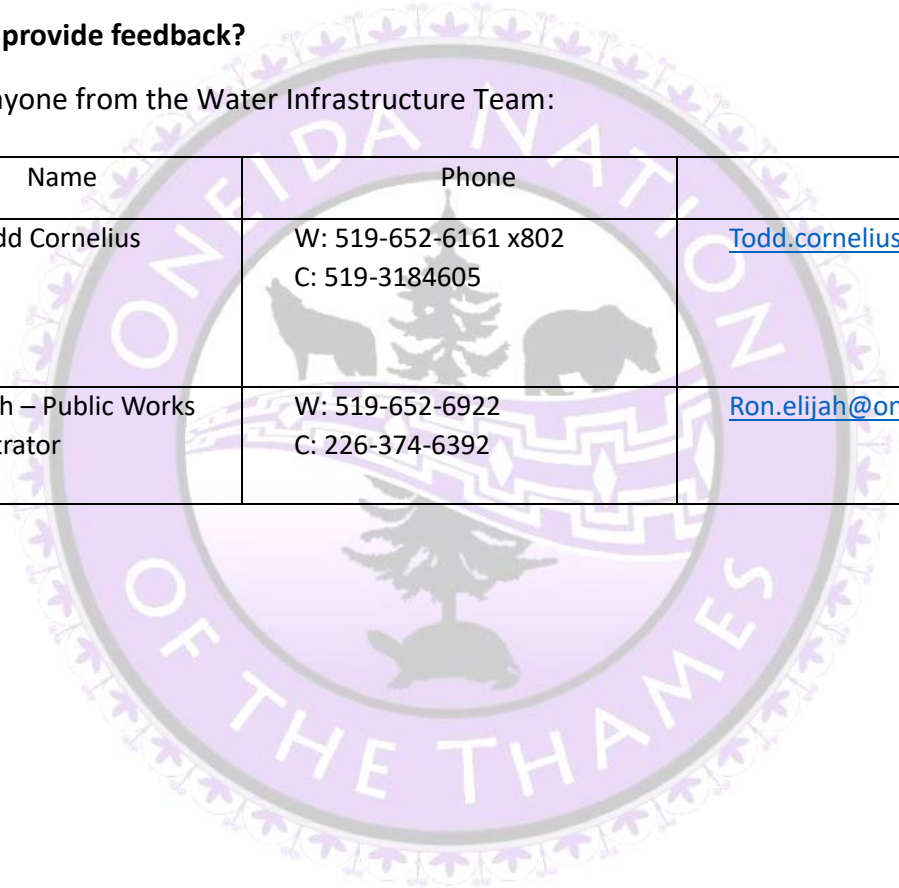
10) Why is this important for our community?

Water is life. Aside from the important health benefits of clean drinking water and fire flow, having a viable and sustainable water source for years to come is vital to the overall health of our community. We will have the ability to attract Oneida members to come back to our land and thrive. As well, we will be in a better position to attract and keep businesses at Oneida that can boost our economic growth.

11) How can I provide feedback?

Contact anyone from the Water Infrastructure Team:

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