

## TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Landscape Assessment of the Water and Sanitation Sector that Supports Vulnerable Populations in Canada Desk Study

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### PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

When Water For People was founded in 1991, there was an enormous gap between water and sanitation services levels in North America compared with many countries in the world. We have made progress globally since then, but the gap remains, and our mission continues to be focused on strengthening the service environment in low and middle-income countries. At the same time, we are aware that some vulnerable populations in the U.S. and Canada do not have sustainable water and sanitation services. According to the 2017 [Joint Monitoring Program](#) report, the US is 99% served with safely managed water and 90% served with safely managed sanitation. Canada is 99% served with safely managed water and 82% served with safely managed sanitation. This means more than 3 million people do not have access to safe drinking water service in the U.S. and Canada with even more without safely managed sanitation services.

More recently, the systemic issues that result in persistent inequities in the U.S. and Canada, including access to water and sanitation services, has garnered much more attention. Our experience at Water For People has also changed since 1991. We have grown from a volunteer organization focused only on engineering/infrastructure support to a diverse global organization with competent professionals in eleven countries. Today we help develop water and sanitation infrastructure as well as contribute to systems-strengthening work to address issues of equity and sustainability, especially as we reach people living remotely - the last mile.

In early 2021, World Water Corps Volunteers [completed a desk study](#) focused on the current Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) situation in the U.S. According to a [study](#) of water access gaps in the U.S., conducted by the US Water Alliance and [Dig Deep](#), more than two million Americans live without running water and basic indoor plumbing, and many more without sanitation, focused in six geographic locations: California's Central Valley, The Navajo Nation, The Texas Colonias, The rural South, Appalachia, and Puerto Rico. These studies have provided a foundation for Water For People to begin to understand what influence or contribution we might be able to have in addressing these WASH access gaps, and take the first steps in exploring whether this is a path we should take.

#### **Background and Context on the Current Situation in Canada**

Water For People Canada recently decided to move forward with an initiative to address the WASH access gap faced by many of the 330,000 Indigenous people living in more than 600 communities across Canada. A study was completed in July 2021 to determine how to commence fundraising for WASH work in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities in Canada. Water For People Canada is a charitable, nonprofit, international humanitarian organization. It was established in 1995 and is dedicated to the development and delivery of clean, safe water and sanitation solutions in developing nations. It is the Canadian equivalent of the U.S.-based charity, Water For People, although it does not directly implement of WASH programs. Water

For People Canada supports and promotes the mission of Water For People in Canada among the public and the water community.

Additionally, it has been [recently reported](#) that Canada's federal government has reached a C\$8bn settlement in two class-action lawsuits with First Nations communities over access to clean drinking water. Through this settlement residents will be compensated, drinking water infrastructure will be built, and legislation will be modernized.

### **Purpose of this Study**

The origin of these Terms of Reference for a Landscape Assessment of the Water and Sanitation Sector that Supports Vulnerable Populations in Canada is to learn if Water For People has expertise that can help improve WASH services in vulnerable communities in Canada. Would it be possible, and impactful, to leverage our experience and build on – and not distract from - the important work that remains in addressing the service-level gaps in the countries where we currently work (and where we have expertise)? Our strongest contributions are likely in helping develop sustainable water and/or sanitation services in rural, poorly served and/or non-sewered service areas. We do not have interest or expertise in increasing our scope to new areas such as agriculture, floodcontrol, urban utilities, etc. We are also interested in learning more about existing organizations already working in this space and if our expertise can be additive to theirs in helping solve the problems.

### **OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE DESK STUDY**

Prepare a Landscape Assessment of Service Levels in Water and Sanitation in Canada.

The assessment should include the following information:

- Review the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and comment on steps that WFP could take to ensure that Reconciliation is part of any approach to working together with Indigenous communities in Canada
- A characterization of the geographic regions or groups of people who have insufficient access to WASH services in Canada,
- Current service level trends of different vulnerable groups in Canada
- Existing actors working towards improving services for these vulnerable groups – Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), government agencies, consultants, etc.
- High-level assessment of the key service functions (e.g., institutional arrangements and coordination, planning, regulation and accountability, learning and adaptation, financing, monitoring, water resources management, infrastructure, etc.) and their ranking from strongest to weakest in each geography
- A description of the key barriers that are hindering or preventing the development of WASH services in each geography, including consideration of Indigenous Environmental Knowledge
- Suggestions on where Water For People could work.
- A brief assessment of Water For People's capacity in terms of human resource and technical skills to manage and provide support to a program in Canada
- An assessment of the Everyone Forever model, sustainable services checklist, and Water For People's Destination 2030 impact metrics to suggest how these can be adapted to the Canadian context.
- Considering the results from the Landscape Assessment, a list of potential ways

we might consider engaging in this work with a recommendation on which options could be explored in a full Feasibility Study. The options should include things like:

- Do nothing
- Be a fundraising and learning partner (with an organization already doing this work)
- Be an implementing partner with such organizations
- Provide consulting services
- Open an equivalent of a country program in a specific region of Canada

Potential organizations and resources to research in this Landscape Assessment include but are not limited to:

- [OneDrop Foundation](#)
- [WaterAid Canada](#)
- [RES'EAU-WaterNET](#)
- [Water First](#)
- [Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources](#)
- [True North Aid](#)

Water For People can help connect the volunteers working on this assignment with contacts at the organizations above once the Landscape Assessment commences.

## DATES FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

- October 15, 2021 - Posting date for applications
- November 5, 2021 - Application due date
- November 22, 2021 - Selection of volunteers
- December 1, 2021 - Start date
  - December 15, 2021 - Workplan due
  - February 28, 2022 - Draft Landscape Assessment due
  - March 15, 2022 - Comments back from Water For People
- March 31, 2022 – End date - Final Landscape Assessment due

## METHODOLOGY

Internet search; interviews with people or organizations working in this space

## TOOLS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Internet

## DELIVERABLE(S) AND AUDIENCE

- **Deliverable:** Landscape Assessment of Service Levels in Water and Sanitation in Canada
- **Audience:** Board of Directors at Water For People Canada, Senior Leadership Team, and the Global Programs Team

## TIMELINE FOR DELIBERABLE(S)

March 2022 – see details above.

## MAIN POINT OF CONTACT

Mark Duey – Chief Operations Officer ([mduey@waterforpeople.org](mailto:mduey@waterforpeople.org))

Members of the Water For People Canada Board of Directors will also be a key resource for the volunteers.

## PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER(S)

The number of volunteers required for this desk study is 2 (two). Ideally, the volunteer(s) will have:

- Knowledge of the needs, successes/failures, regulatory and funding environment, and actors in Canada working in water/wastewater/sanitation
- Familiarity with Water For People's work (Everyone Forever impact model and Systems Strengthening Agenda)
- Strong writing skills
- Project management experience

**If interested, please complete the online application by November 5 at:**  
<https://www.waterforpeople.org/world-water-corps>