

**There's no doubt about it**, there is a lot of water in Nunavut and taking care of it all is a big job! Many different organizations or governments have jurisdiction over different aspects of water management within the territory. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is one of those departments who have a part in responsible water resource management in Nunavut. Here's the role that our Inspectors play:

- Inspect water licences for mines, industries and communities in the territory;
  - Ensure compliance of the terms and conditions of water licences and take action if the licensee is not in compliance, and;
  - Provide advice and education on water legislation within the territory that could potentially affect the operations of communities, mines and other industry sites.

INAC employs people who usually have a science background or a strong interest in science, to be Water Resources Officers. In Nunavut, there are two Water Resources Officers, one who handles activities in the Baffin Region and another for the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions. The role of a Water Resources Officer is to ensure that industrial and municipal operators are practicing responsible water resources management and following the conditions of the water licence. They also help communities with understanding

water licence. They also help communities with understanding the requirements of their licences and may assist them with the collection of water samples or preparation of annual reports. Their task can change from site to site, as quickly as a river flows. Lets follow a Water Resources Officer around on his day.

**Cela ne fait aucun doute**, il y a beaucoup d'eau au Nunavut et s'en occuper n'est pas une mince tâche! Bon nombre d'organisations ou de gouvernements exercent une autorité sur divers aspects de la gestion de l'eau dans le territoire. Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada (AINC) est l'un des ministères qui ont un rôle à jouer dans la gestion éclairée des ressources hydriques au Nunavut. Voici en quoi consiste le travail de nos inspecteurs :

- inspecter les permis d'utilisation de l'eau des mines, des industries et des collectivités du territoire;
  - veiller au respect des conditions des permis d'utilisation de l'eau et prendre les mesures qui s'imposent si le détenteur ne les respecte pas;
  - donner des conseils et des renseignements dans le territoire sur la législation relative à l'eau susceptible d'avoir des répercussions sur les activités des collectivités, des mines et d'autres intervenants industriels.

Pour pourvoir les postes d'agent des ressources hydriques, AINC embauche habituellement des personnes ayant des antécédents en sciences ou un vif intérêt pour les sciences. Au Nunavut, on compte actuellement deux agents des ressources hydriques; le premier est responsable des activités dans la région de Baffin, l'autre des régions de Kitikmeot et de Kivalliq. Le rôle de l'agent des ressources hydriques est de veiller à ce que les exploitants industriels et municipaux gèrent les ressources hydriques de façon responsable et respectent les conditions stipulées dans les permis d'utilisation de l'eau. Ils aident également les collectivités à comprendre les exigences de leurs permis et peuvent les aider à prélever des échantillons d'eau ou à préparer des rapports annuels. Selon l'endroit, leurs tâches exactes peuvent varier aussi rapidement que le courant d'une rivière. Suivons un agent des ressources hydriques pendant une journée.

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## A Day in the Life of a Water Resources Officer

## Une journée dans la vie d'un agent des Ressources Hydriques

When first arriving at work, the Water Resources Officer may have letters or phone calls from communities or companies who have questions about water licence requirements and interpretations. It is their job to answer these regulatory questions. Because the Water Resources Officer works directly with many different clients, he may be asked questions that concern other parts of INAC or even other government departments. These questions will be directed to the appropriate department. The Water Resources Officer may also provide comments on water licence applications or on reports prepared in accordance with licence requirements.

Lorsqu'il arrive au travail, l'agent des ressources hydriques peut devoir s'occuper de lettres ou d'appels téléphoniques provenant de collectivités ou de sociétés se posant des questions sur les exigences et l'interprétation des permis d'utilisation de l'eau. Il lui incombe de répondre à ces questions sur la réglementation. Étant donné que l'agent des ressources hydriques travaille directement avec un grand nombre de clients différents, on peut lui poser des questions sur d'autres services d'AINC ou même d'autres ministères. Ces questions seront acheminées au ministère concerné. L'agent des ressources hydriques peut également donner des commentaires sur les demandes de permis d'utilisation de l'eau ou sur les rapports préparés conformément aux exigences du permis.



After taking care of this administrative work, the Water Resources Officer could then head out to a site for an inspection. This could be a planned inspection or a surprise inspection.

Une fois ces tâches administratives exécutées, l'agent des ressources hydrauliques peut se rendre à un endroit donné pour une inspection. Il peut s'agir d'une inspection prévue ou d'une inspection surprise.

An inspection is a very detailed process! Every part of the operation has to be inspected to ensure the licensee is complying with the water licence. The Water Resources Officer has to ensure the samples are gathered in a uncontaminated manner so that they will not become tainted in any way. The Officer will also inspect any fuel or chemical spill clean-up activities while on the site and take lots of pictures and notes. These pictures and notes will be used for reminders during the report writing stage or as evidence in court if necessary.

Une inspection est une opération très détaillée! Chaque facette de l'exploitation doit être inspectée pour que l'on puisse être certain que le titulaire de permis respecte les conditions d'utilisation de l'eau. L'agent des ressources hydriques doit veiller à ce que des échantillons soient prélevés d'une manière prévenant toute contamination. L'agent inspecte également toute activité de nettoyage de déversement de produits chimiques ou de carburant pendant sa visite et il prend beaucoup de notes et de photographies. Ces photographies et ces notes lui serviront d'aide\_mémoire au moment de la rédaction de son rapport ou d'éléments de preuve s'il doit témoigner en justice.



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The Water Resources Officer then sends the samples to a laboratory in Yellowknife, with details on what analysis must be made.

L'agent des ressources hydriques envoie ensuite les échantillons à un laboratoire à Yellowknife, en précisant quelle analyse doit être effectuée.

Once the lab samples come back, an inspection report will be prepared which will determine whether or not the site is following their water licence. The results of the water samples will also be given to the licensee. If the site is not in compliance with their water licence, it is the Water Resources Officer's job to take the appropriate actions to ensure the company or community comes into compliance.

Lorsque les échantillons lui sont renvoyés, il doit rédiger un rapport d'inspection, lequel déterminera si le titulaire visité respecte ou non son permis d'utilisation de l'eau. Les résultats des analyses des échantillons d'eau seront également donnés au titulaire de permis. Si l'emplacement ne respecte pas le permis d'utilisation de l'eau, il incombe à l'agent des ressources hydriques de prendre les mesures qui s'imposent pour que la société ou la collectivité se conforme à la réglementation.

# A Day in the Life of a Water Resources Officer

## Une journée dans la vie d'un agent des ressources hydriques

### ALÉXÉE DÉJÉ

Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada



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Bureau de district du Nunavut  
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada  
gestion des ressources hydriques au Nunavut.  
Le personnel du bureau de district d'AINC d'inquiétude  
serait en charge de répondre à toute question sur la  
gestion des ressources hydriques au Nunavut. A qui  
j'ai d'autres questions à poser relativement à la  
plus je m'adresse?

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Ph : (867) 975-4297

l'Inqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0HO

PO Box 100, Building 918

Nunavut District Office

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

be happy to answer questions about water resources  
management in Nunavut.

The INAC District Office in Iqaluit would

I Still Have Questions About Water

Resources Management in Nunavut.

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