**Ontario Water Consortium**
**Graduate Leadership Council**
**Event Summary**

**Webinar:**
"Water Inequality: Addressing water insecurity in first nation communities. A Discussion on past interventions and the need for indigenous water governance."

Speaker: Rachel Arsenault
Time: August 8, 2022

Reporter: Lin Sun, Ontario Water Consortium Graduate Leadership Council

**Event Summary:**
Since Rachel Arsenault realized the significance of water insecurity as one of the most critical issues affecting First Nations in Ontario, she spent quite spirits to do research on this topic since her Master's degree at Laurentian University. Continued she is exploring how to support indigenous communities and driven solutions to climate change for her PhD program at York University. During the webinar, opening with a memory recall regarding water insecurity during her own childhood, Rachel emphasized the impacts of the First Nations water crisis to local communities in Canada. Ontario was one of the most affected provinces with highest number of boil water advisories in the First Nations communities, since the indigenous relationship to water has deteriorated significantly. Using the map of Ontario's drinking water advisories in 2016, she illustrated and highlighted the water crisis occurred. Numerous studies, reports, assessments had been conducted by government, consultants, indigenous and non-indigenous organizations with various strategies generated. Rachel highlighted a timeline of water security impacts, reports, and legislation affecting First Nations in Ontario from 1919 to 2023. The annals starting from Shoal Lake which was under public spotlight with the severity of water insecurity, to the current target built for eliminating LTDWAS in 2023. Also, four key components, posterity (clean environment access from ancestors to next generations), accountability (support any indigenous nations if needed), reciprocity (global cooperation to share and enhance knowledge system, laws and more) and creating transformative research, were extracted from water declaration and well interpreted by Rachel.

The presentation ended on time following with 10 min interactive Q&A session.