



RACISM and the **AMSSND Commitments**

Racism and Water

Did You Know...?

- Unequal water access is one of the systemic injustices that oppress people of color. [Living without water and sanitation](#) access makes it difficult to stay healthy, earn a living, go to school, [find stable and adequate housing](#), and care for a family.
- In the United States and Canada, “[race is still the strongest determinant](#)” when it comes to water access.
 - Women of color most often shoulder the burden of ensuring clean water for their families, an [arduous and time-consuming task](#), especially when concerned for at-risk family members, such as the elderly, children, and the infirm.
- Canada is one of the most [water-rich countries](#) in the world, yet “the water supplied to many First Nations communities on reserves is contaminated, hard to access, or at risk due to faulty treatment systems.”
 - In some communities, water advisories warning of contaminated water have been in place for more than 20 years.
 - [From 2004-2014](#), two-thirds of First Nations peoples lived under a water advisory.
- In the U.S. and Puerto Rico, more than [two million people](#) lack basic indoor plumbing and sanitation.
 - Native American households are [19 times more likely](#) than white households to lack indoor plumbing. African American and Latinx households are nearly twice as likely.
- Discrimination in water infrastructure development initiatives and lack of federal funding have [compounded water access challenges](#) in communities of color.

To learn more and take action...

- [In Canada](#)
- [In the United States](#)

For Reflection...

Ojibwa Poem: Nibi (Water)

Anishinaabekwe, the Daughters,
You are the keepers of the water.

I am Nibi... water.. the sacred source,
the blood of Aki, Mother Earth,
the force filling dry seeds to great bursting.

I am the wombs cradle.
I purify.
Nibi, the lifegiver, forever the Circle's charge
I have coursed through our Mother's veins.

Now hear my sorrow and my pain
in the river's rush, the rain.

I am your grandchildren's drink.
Listen, Daughters, always.

You are the keepers of the water.
Hear my cry, for the springs flow darkly now
through the heart of Aki.

Prayer

Spirit of God,

When you moved upon the face of the water,
you called forth the potential of all creation
and called it good.

Through water, we enter this world—
help us to honor and revere this gift of life.
By water, we are sustained—
help us to protect Earth's water sources
and ensure equal access to water for all people.

Every body is a waterway.
May your Light move through us,
a rainbow people,
and may your promise of hope be reflected through us all. Amen.