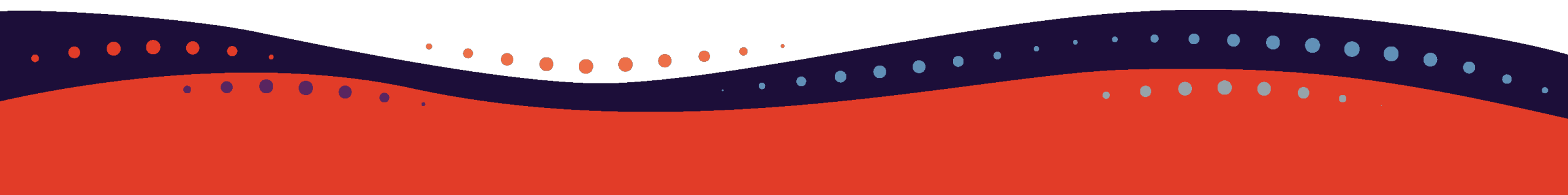




ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS  
TECHNICAL SERVICES  
CORPORATION

**National Water and Wastewater Conference 2023**  
**Decolonizing Water Governance:**  
**Recognition of First Nations Jurisdiction**



# Executive Director

## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

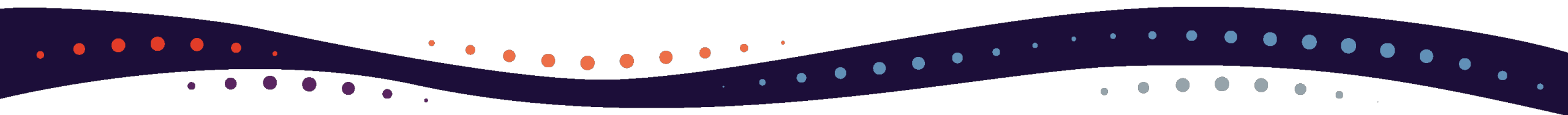


- Decolonizing Water Governance
- Nibii- Water
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Recommendations: Decolonize the System
- Additional Recommendations

# Decolonizing Water Governance:

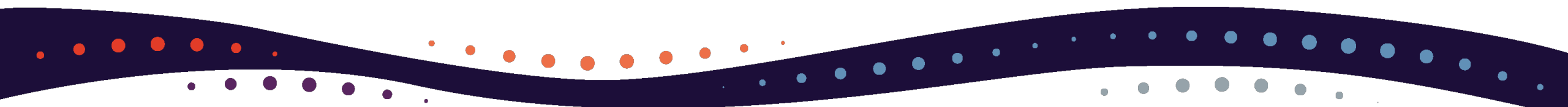
## Recognition of First Nations Jurisdiction

- OFNTSC was founded upon the devolution of colonial responsibilities and is funded by and answers to Indigenous Services Canada;
- Significant advances in the implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Canada through UNDA provide opportunities to recognize and uphold fundamental Indigenous and human rights.
- Indigenous Legal Orders learned from generations must be considered in relation to water and land.
- Indigenous Peoples must re-invoke and determine their governance structures in relation to water governance.
- OFNTSC strongly advocates for a new model and a new way forward.
- Water Governance that is designed by First Nations for First Nations should be based on self-determination and Indigenous knowledge and laws at its core.



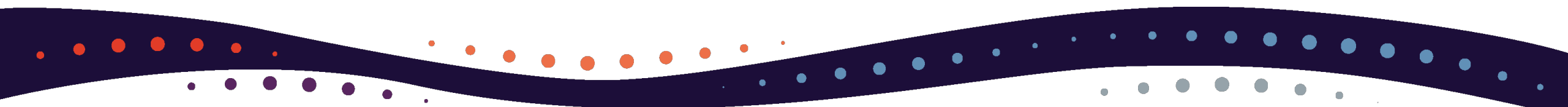
# Nibii- Water

- Water responsibility an inherent responsibility
- Anishishnaabe Ah-do-win (our way of life) our Anishinaabe Ay-Yaa-Win (our way of being) is inherently ingrained in ourselves and our nations simply by being born Anishinaabe.
- Nibii (water) is the life blood of mother earth.
- Inaakonigaaywin-( Indigenous Laws) require mandatory care for our water.



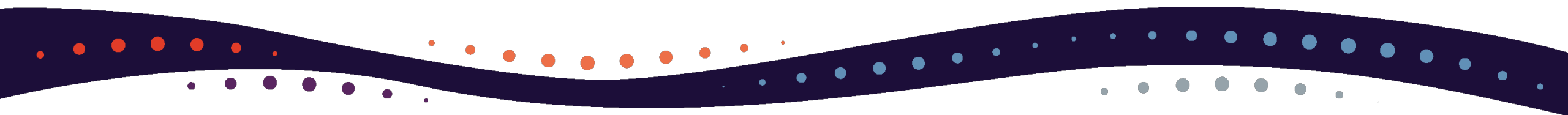
# Challenges

- Colonial law and policy
- Climate Change
- Growing Infrastructure Gap
- Jurisdictional ambiguity and lack of or infringement regulations
- Insufficient capital infrastructure funding
- O&M funding shortfalls and human resource issues
- Resource development and Indigenous territories and poor water quality
- Prohibitive costs
- Connection to housing crisis
- Impact on culture and cultural governance rights

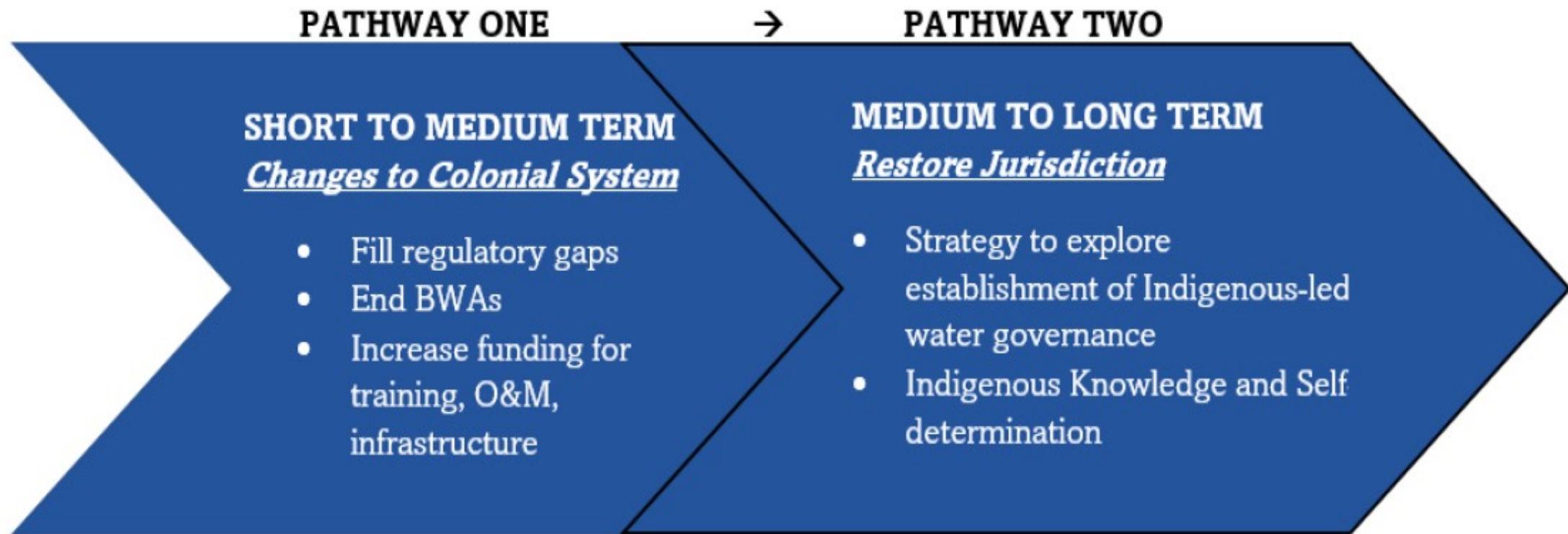


# Opportunities

- Court Challenges
- First Nations built and led Water Commission or Authority
- UNDRIP > UNDA
- Canada's proposed Draft clean water, waste water and related infrastructure legislation
  - Carefully re-evaluate the proposed legislation

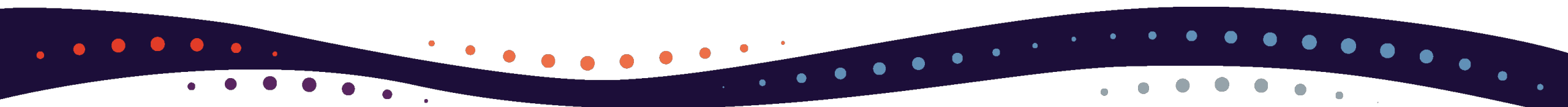


# Recommendations: Decolonize the System



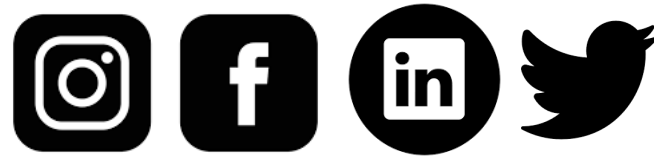
# Additional Recommendations

- Restore First Nations jurisdiction in water governance closing the existing gaps first.
- Prioritize Indigenous-led water governance led and built by Indigenous for Indigenous
  - Consistent with UNDRIP>UNDA
  - Reconsider Canada's Draft Water Legislation
    - Respect formalized Indigenous Laws
    - Close the Gaps
- Better Relationships with PTOs
  - to design an engagement framework for the development of a strategy on decolonizing water governance through restoring First Nations jurisdiction.
- Formalizing a tripartite partnership with federal and provincial governments through MOU's.
- Update Current First Nations Capital Needs Assessments and fund accordingly
- Walkerton Report- Implement needs not acted on yet





# OFNTSC.ORG



THANK YOU

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