

Media Representation of First Nations Water Issues in Canada



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April 8th, 2016
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London, Ontario

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Introduction

The purpose of this collection is to assist any person attempting to challenge the environmental injustices occurring against the First Nations people of Canada, through the presentation of real examples from Canadian media that can be used in support of various arguments surrounding the state of water on reserves across the country.

The collection of quotes and texts have been gathered from over 120 newspaper articles all of which mainly focus on the state of water on the various First Nations reserves across Canada. The articles were taken from a range of Canadian newspapers including the Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, The Calgary Herald, the Edmonton Journal, the Ottawa Citizen, the Vancouver Sun, the Vancouver Province, the Hamilton Spectator, the Montreal Gazette, and the World News Digest.

Specific portions and quotes from the articles have been extracted and placed within the appropriate category. Each quote is followed by the (1) the title of the news article which it was originally from, and (2) the name of the newspaper who originally published the article.

Contaminants in the Water

E. Coli

- “A report done in 2003 by the Ontario clean water agency called Kashechewan a “Walkerton-in-waiting,” referring to the tragedy five years ago in which seven people died and another 2,300 became ill after drinking water laced with E. coli in Walkerton, ON” - *Reserve's medical emergency did not come as a surprise; Boil-water advisory in place for two years – The Globe and Mail*
- "They got these disorders because they washed in water from the community's treatment plant that was contaminated with the E. coli bacterium" - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*
- “The federal government sent in bottled water to the community of 1,900 people and began lacing the water supply with chlorine to fight the E. coli” - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*
- “Some critics say the shortfall sets the stage for a reserve-based disaster on par with the E. coli tragedy in Walkerton, ON” - *Native water funding falls short: Report – The Toronto Star*
- "In the Kashechewan case, the clean water agency wasn't asked to look at its water treatment plant until after Health Canada confirmed the presence of E. Coli" - *Regulator needs to monitor reserve's water, chief says – The Toronto Star*
- “The new spending comes after Ottawa was shamed last week into announcing plans to move the Kashechewan first nation community, where E. coli had contaminated the water supply and residents have been evacuating their homes” - *Ottawa gives \$3B to natives – The Toronto Star*
- “It wasn't easy for Robert Kooses to kiss his seven children goodbye in late October as they fled their E. coli-stricken reserve for medical treatment and shelter 1,000 kilometers away” - *Reserve water crisis sparks major changes for aboriginals: Nationwide problems highlighted, billions pledged to deal with them – The Edmonton Journal*
- “Chlorine is put in water to kill bacteria, such as the potentially fatal E. coli, but it often prompts complaints from people who don't like the smell” - *Expert tests water on reserve: It's safe to drink: Officials link scare to poor management, lack of training – The Ottawa Citizen*
- "What Kashechewan had that Gilford Island didn't was water contaminated with E. coli, instead of salt, heavy metals or other contaminants" - *Getting the media to carry the message: Stories of native hardships are often overlooked by the mainstream media, writes Alex Hutchinson. So piquing reporters' interest took a special effort – The Ottawa Citizen*
- "Bolstered by the statements of a doctor visiting from moose factory, the band drew a connection between E. coli and the various skin ailments affecting residents" - *Getting the media to carry the message: Stories of native hardships are often overlooked by the mainstream media, writes Alex Hutchinson. So piquing reporters' interest took a special effort – The Ottawa Citizen*

- “The report was requested by Mr. Ramsay after the partial evacuation of the Kashechewan first nation following the discovery of the potentially fatal E. coli virus in the reserve's water system on Oct. 14” - *Water unsafe on 1 in 4 reserves: 38 native communities under boil water advisories, report reveals – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “Economic stagnation in certain native reserves was thrust into the spotlight last week as the Cree community of Kashechewan, about 450 kilometers north of Timmins, ON., was evacuated by provincial authorities after E. coli was found in the water system” - *Ontario proposes native logging in virgin forests: Idea to ease poverty on reserves comes as federal government offers extra \$4B – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “He noted cynically that the worse off a first nations community is, referring to the Kashechewan reserve in northern Ontario where the water was contaminated by E. coli, the more likely it will get attention and help” - *Remote reserve seeks new housing: New water purification plant also sought by Kwikwaisutaineuk band – The Vancouver Province*
- “The reserve's only school was closed after E. coli was discovered during routine testing by a Health Canada official in drinking water described as the color of ginger ale” – *E. Coli Found on Ontario Native Reserve – World News Digest*
- “They found children suffering with skin disorders, mothers who spend hours a day disinfecting bottles to feed their babies, children and adults skipping baths and the presence of E. coli and other pollutants in untreated water” - *Canada blasted for unsafe water on reserves; Human Rights Watch found E coli, other pollutants in untreated First Nations water – The Toronto Star*

Uranium

- “Some of the town's well water is contaminated with uranium and other potentially toxic radioactive elements” - *Many natives drinking unsafe water – The Globe and Mail*
- “But that still leaves the community's 425 residents bathing and washing their clothes in water laced with uranium” - *Tainted tap water common on reserves across province; Kashechewan not alone: Supply at another Ontario community laced with uranium – The Globe and Mail*
- “Mr. Ramsay says the reserve's water supply was contaminated with a toxic substance, likely uranium” - *Water unsafe on 1 in 4 reserves: 38 native communities under boil water advisories, report reveals – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “The reserve, which is near Sioux Lookout, 100 kilometers from the Manitoba border, is one of 39 native communities whose drinking water contains dirt, uranium or fuel oil, according to a Health Canada report” - *Tainted tap water common on reserves across province; Kashechewan not alone: Supply at another Ontario community laced with uranium – The Globe and Mail*
- “Water that contains dirt, uranium or fuel oil, as well as rookie water-treatment officials who lack formal training, are common features of the 39 native communities currently under boil-water advisories in Ontario, according to a Health Canada report” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins – The Globe and Mail*

- “The report indicates Keewaywin First Nation, which does not have year-round road access, will be on a boil-water advisory “until the treatment system is in place or new uranium-free water source is found” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins – The Globe and Mail*
- “It would take several years for the trace amounts of uranium in the water to build up in someone's system” - *Tainted tap water common on reserves across province; Kashechewan not alone: Supply at another Ontario community laced with uranium - The Globe and Mail*

Fuel

- “In Pikangikum, also in the remote northwest corner of the province, suspicions that fuel oil had entered the water system because of several pipe breaks were eventually discounted” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins – The Globe and Mail*
- “Water that contains dirt, uranium or fuel oil, as well as rookie water-treatment officials who lack formal training, are common features of the 39 native communities currently under boil-water advisories in Ontario, according to a Health Canada report” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins – The Globe and Mail*
- “According to a Health Canada report, 39 native communities had drinking water contaminated by either fuel oil, dirt or uranium, and that 85 native communities across Canada had been recommended to boil their water” - *E Coli Found on Ontario Native Reserve – World News Digest*
- “When the tug Nathan E Stewart and its empty fuel barge ran aground on a reef and began leaking diesel fuel in the waters off the great bear rainforest on Oct. 13” - *PM vows better ship tracking for coastal indigenous groups; Trudeau says 'it's time for a change,' promising real-time coverage for First Nations communities – The Globe and Mail*
- “The Heiltsuk want the right to direct fuel barges to outside waters, away from the coastal areas that provide their traditional food sources” - *PM vows better ship tracking for coastal indigenous groups; Trudeau says 'it's time for a change,' promising real-time coverage for First Nations communities – The Globe and Mail*

Health Problems Caused by Unsafe Water

Cancer

- “The community water system was shut down on Sept. 29, after tests conducted by the environmental health officer confirmed that the water contains gasoline and an usually high-level of trihalomethane, a class of chemical compound linked to an increased risk of cancer” - *Natives seek improved water supply – The Globe and Mail*
- “Every spring since, Mandamin and a small band of followers have walked around one of the lakes. Next weekend they depart from the Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre here to walk up the St. Lawrence River. Their mission will end where the lakes' water pours into the Atlantic Ocean (bearing so much poison that a quarter of the male beluga whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence have cancer)” - *A*

native grandmother's epic walk for the water; Josephine Mandamin set out six years ago to walk around the Great Lakes. She's made it 17,000 km so far and shamed us along the way – The Toronto Star

Tuberculosis

- “They're housing horror stories - as many as 20 people crammed into a tiny home, a third of dwellings lack running water, a death-rate from fires 3 1/2 times the Canadian average, diseases such as hepatitis and tuberculosis persist. But the crisis isn't in the Third World - it's in Canadian native communities, says a committee of MPs” - *Natives left to live in squalor MPs say – The Toronto Star*
- “Health risks, with diseases related to poor sanitation - hepatitis and tuberculosis, for example - continuing to occur in many northern communities” - *Natives left to live in squalor MPs say – The Toronto Star*
- “One item in a recent day's outpouring of news stories was startling -- the rate of tuberculosis among Canadian natives is 43 times higher than among non-natives” - *What other newspapers are saying about the tuberculosis rate among natives, freedom of information and the conservative agenda – The Calgary Herald*
- “According to the Statistics Canada report published this week in the quarterly Health Report, the rate of tuberculosis among status natives was 81.3 cases per 100,000 in 1992. For all natives, the rate was 60.8. By contrast, the rate for all of Africa is 80 per 100,000. Bangladesh has a TB rate of 43.6” - *What other newspapers are saying about the tuberculosis rate among natives, freedom of information and the conservative agenda – The Calgary Herald*
- “Denise Avar, executive director of the Canadian Institute of Child Health, said tuberculosis should not exist at these rates if a society is looking after the "minimum human social needs" of its members” - *TB rates among Natives; Action needed – The Hamilton Spectator*
- “About 31 per cent of native houses don't have running water or piped sewage or septic fields. Health risks. Diseases related to poor sanitation and water contaminated by sewage - including hepatitis and tuberculosis - continue to occur in many northern communities” - *\$2-billion needed for native homes MPs call for immediate federal action – The Globe and Mail*

Hepatitis

- “About 31 per cent of native houses don't have running water or piped sewage or septic fields. Health risks. Diseases related to poor sanitation and water contaminated by sewage - including hepatitis and tuberculosis - continue to occur in many northern communities” - *\$2-billion needed for native homes MPs call for immediate federal action – The Globe and Mail*
- “Two weeks ago, the federal government sent in bottled water to the community of 1,900 people and began lacing the water supply with chlorine to fight the E coli. This aggravated the skin diseases and now many of the residents of Kashechewan have developed open sores. The plan is to fly hundreds of them to Sudbury and other northern communities to treat their conditions and to vaccinate them

against hepatitis A and B” - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*

- “They fled their community late last week after a nine-year-old boy came down with hepatitis and had to be airlifted out of the town, 200 kilometers north of The Pas. He was the ninth person to get the infectious liver disease from the water in the past year. At least 1,100 of the reserve's 1,700 residents have been affected by everything from skin rashes to hepatitis” - *Polluted water common on reserves, native says About 200 Manitoba Indians continue protest march to Winnipeg – The Globe and Mail*

Skin Diseases and Rashes

- “Water issues jumped to the forefront last fall following the evacuation of the Kashechewan reserve in Northern Ontario, 480 kilometers north of Timmins. Journalists from across the country descended on the remote community, sending out images of skin troubles caused by excess chlorine in the water” - *Water-standards plan flows to reserves; Failure to comply with rules will result in penalties, Indian Affairs Minister says – The Globe and Mail*
- “The issue made headlines last October when 1,000 residents were removed from a remote Northern Ontario reserve. Many needed treatment for skin rashes and illness for which dirty water and poor sanitation were blamed” - *First-ever water standards promised to native reserves – The Globe and Mail*
- ““There were infections of the skin. It was a medical emergency,” Wally Turner, life safety officer for Mushkegowuk Council, which includes Kashechewan, said in an interview yesterday. “We're still evacuating because of it.”” - *Reserve's medical emergency did not come as a surprise; Boil-water advisory in place for two years - Reserve's medical emergency did not come as a surprise; Boil-water advisory in place for two years – The Globe and Mail*
- “The children of the Mushkegowuk First Nation are infected with scabies, a nasty parasite, and impetigo, a bacterial skin infection with blisters. They got these disorders because they washed in water from the community's treatment plant that was contaminated with the E coli bacterium” - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*
- “Two weeks ago, the federal government sent in bottled water to the community of 1,900 people and began lacing the water supply with chlorine to fight the E coli. This aggravated the skin diseases and now many of the residents of Kashechewan have developed open sores” - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*
- “Mr. Bisson organized a trip to Toronto this week by Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Stan Louttit and Murray Trusler, a doctor in Moose Factory. At a Queen's Park news conference on Monday, they showed compelling slides of children - Ontario children - with skin diseases” - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*
- “Dr. Trusler said many children he saw at the Kashechewan Reserve are infected with scabies, a nasty parasite, and impetigo, a bacterial skin infection. He said the only water available for bathing contains

high levels of chlorine, which irritates the skin” - *Polluted reserve to be evacuated; Ontario declares state of emergency; many residents in need of medical care – The Globe and Mail*

- “At least 1,100 of the reserve's 1,700 residents have been affected by everything from skin rashes to hepatitis. Manitoba Health Minister Jim McCrae has called the water unfit to bathe in” - *Polluted water common on reserves, native says About 200 Manitoba Indians continue protest march to Winnipeg – The Globe and Mail*
- “Romeo suffers from skin problems made worse by the contaminated water, forcing Ms. Wesley to buy expensive bottled water from the local store every time she wants to bathe him, she said. "He had eczema when he was a boy and I guess [the dirty water] affected it," said Ms. Wesley by phone from the remote reserve. Ms. Wesley, who ekes out an existence on welfare, said that the \$36 it cost to bathe her son took such a bite out her sparse income that the child could be properly cleaned only three times a month” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins – The Globe and Mail*
- “Mr. Ramsay said he and the Premier declared a state of emergency within minutes of seeing graphic photographs of the reserve's children, many of whom are infected with scabies, a nasty parasite, and impetigo, a bacterial skin infection” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins – The Globe and Mail*
- “Almost 1,000 people on the reserve suffer from skin problems due to the high level of chlorination necessary to disinfect the water. All residents need to be vaccinated for hepatitis A and B. Skin infections like scabies and impetigo are rampant, and exacerbated by the high levels of chlorine” - *Province charters aircraft for mission Dispute with Ottawa finally resolved – The Toronto Star*
- “He said media reports on the Kashechewan crisis had been flawed because they linked scabies and impetigo -- the two most widespread ailments reported -- with the town's tainted water. Neither are water-borne diseases. And neither are caused by chlorine used to kill the potentially fatal E coli. Scabies is a skin infestation that spreads rapidly in crowded conditions where there is frequent skin-to-skin contact between people. Impetigo is also spread through person-to-person contact” - *Water fine now, says technician: Poor staff training, low levels of chlorine, blamed for E coli – The Edmonton Journal*
- “The evacuation was launched after a medical officer advised that children and the elderly were at risk of illness. E coli was found in water samples in early October and medical assessments showed high chlorine levels in the water used to kill the potentially deadly bacteria exacerbated skin infections already being suffered by family members cramped into close quarters” - *Reserve water crisis sparks major changes for aboriginals: Nationwide problems highlighted, billions pledged to deal with them – The Edmonton Journal*
- “Scabies is a skin infestation that spreads rapidly under crowded conditions where there is frequent skin-to-skin contact between people. Impetigo is also spread through person-to-person contact. In a letter written to the CBC the last week, Mr. LeBlanc expressed his frustration with media reporting on the issue. "If you want to tie scabies and impetigo to environmental conditions, concentrate on crowded living environments (which promotes person-to-person transmission) and an elevated rate of diabetes (which increases risk of infection). Please do not tie these diseases to chlorine levels and the

community's drinking water supply” - *Expert tests water on reserve: It's safe to drink: Officials link scare to poor management, lack of training – The Ottawa Citizen*

- “Health assessments of Kashechewan evacuees in Ottawa have revealed many adverse reactions from exposure to tainted water, including skin rashes, deep skin infections and gastrointestinal problems, according to an official with the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health” - *Evacuees face 'health crisis,' says official: Problems are more widespread than water – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “The people of Kashechewan were evacuated because of the high chlorine levels in the water that were exacerbating their skin conditions and it was medically necessary to remove some of the people in the community to get treatment” - *Water unsafe on 1 in 4 reserves: 38 native communities under boil water advisories, report reveals – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “Economic stagnation in certain native reserves was thrust into the spotlight last week as the Cree community of Kashechewan, about 450 kilometers north of Timmins, Ont., was evacuated by provincial authorities after E coli was found in the water system. Many in the 1,700 person community suffered skin rashes brought on by poor living conditions in the fly-in community of dirt roads and plywood bungalows” - *Ontario proposes native logging in virgin forests: Idea to ease poverty on reserves comes as federal government offers extra \$4B – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “Parents whose children have the itchy red rashes worry they are due to contaminated water. A similar fear was reported by parents in Kashechewan First Nation on the James Bay coast. They also blamed contaminated water for a spate of skin rashes on young children” - *Hundreds in remote community without water; Frustrated chief calls on PM to honour promises amid more contamination fears – The Toronto Star*
- ““Many households surveyed by Human Rights Watch reported problems related to skin infections, eczema, psoriasis, or other skin problems, which they believed were associated with water conditions in their homes,” the report said” - *Hundreds in remote community without water; Frustrated chief calls on PM to honour promises amid more contamination fears – The Toronto Star*
- “They found children suffering with skin disorders, mothers who spend hours a day disinfecting bottles to feed their babies, children and adults skipping baths and the presence of E coli and other pollutants in untreated water” - *Canada blasted for unsafe water on reserves; Human Rights Watch found E coli, other pollutants in untreated First Nations water – The Toronto Star*
- “Kasling, who visited the communities in the report, said the most troubling observation was of the children and elders with unexplained, red and raw-looking skin rashes” - *Canada blasted for unsafe water on reserves; Human Rights Watch found E coli, other pollutants in untreated First Nations water – The Toronto Star*
- The population is breaking out in skin diseases. It is one of dozens of communities in Ontario that are, scandalously, on the water watch list. Almost all of them are indigenous communities - *Send troops to Ontario's north, not Africa – The Toronto Star*
- “They are becoming teenagers, a time when grooming is important. But Ms. Atlookan will not allow them to bathe more than once every two or three days. She's seen what washing the skin has done to

other children living at the Neskantaga First Nation, an Ontario fly-in community nearly 500 kilometres north of Thunder Bay. Sores and rashes spread across their arms, legs, bellies and faces” – *Trouble on Tap; Water problems faced by First Nations may be too big to be solved by cash alone – The Globe and Mail*

- “In overcrowded houses on reserves in remote Northwestern Ontario where clean running water is not available, a deadly type of bacteria called MRSA is proliferating. MRSA is a staph infection that causes sores and boils on the skin, and can penetrate the body to infect internal organs” - *Trouble on Tap; Water problems faced by First Nations may be too big to be solved by cash alone – The Globe and Mail*

Money & Government Funding

Government funding for general issues on First Nations Reserves

- “The government will commit between \$3 billion and \$4 billion when Prime Minister Paul Martin meets with the premiers and aboriginal leaders in Kelowna, The Star has learned. The money will be promised over five years when the first ministers meet in British Columbia on Nov. 24. Sources say it will be used to improve education, housing, health and economic development programs” - *Ottawa gives \$3B to natives – The Toronto Star*
- “The Assembly of First Nations urged Ottawa last week to commit at least \$5 billion over 10 years to help wipe out native poverty. MP Jim Prentice, the Conservative critic for aboriginal issues, said more cash isn't necessarily the answer” - *Ottawa gives \$3B to natives – The Toronto Star*
- “But Ottawa and the provinces must first figure out who should be paying for what - and who should be accountable when services break down, he added. The federal government spends more than \$8 billion a year to meet its legal obligations to aboriginal people” - *Ottawa gives \$3B to natives – The Toronto Star*
- “The federal government has set aside \$ 2.8 million to study TB rates among natives. This may be a needed precursor for action, but it seems obvious that providing decent housing, and modern sewage and water systems should be the priority” - *What other newspapers are saying about the tuberculosis rate among natives, freedom of information and the conservative agenda – The Calgary Herald*
- “In the eyes of native youth, \$2.5 billion spent on the Olympics while their people suffer decrepit living conditions, unsafe drinking water, suicide, chronic unemployment and a host of other deplorable conditions is a travesty of the highest order” - *Real Olympic protest should be against native leaders – The Calgary Herald*
- “Canada has, so far, shelled out \$1.3 billion to 75,000 survivors of residential schools and nothing has changed in their world, either. Their own political organization, the AFN, and Fontaine in particular, brokered the deal. Every other native group and native leader in the country endorsed and applauded it” - *Real Olympic protest should be against native leaders – The Calgary Herald*
- “When the final tally of \$1.9 billion is gone, still nothing will have changed. Upwards of 80,000 people will have been paid an average of \$23,750. Some will receive more, others less depending on the circumstances of their common experience. While I understand that there is much healing in this for

survivors of the schools, the point is that nothing changes with the disbursement of the money” - *Real Olympic protest should be against native leaders – The Calgary Herald*

- “Canada's aboriginal people will get more than \$2 billion in new money for health care, water systems on reserves, education and native policing, Finance Minister John Manley announced in Tuesday's federal budget” - *First Nations to get \$2B for health, water – The Calgary Herald*
- “The largest portion, some \$1.3 billion over five years, goes to native health, doubling the estimated \$1.3 billion the federal government spends yearly for health services to some 800,000 aboriginal people” - *First Nations to get \$2B for health, water – The Calgary Herald*
- “The budget's additional \$1.3 billion in health money for natives is part of the recent \$34-billion federal-provincial health accord and has been blasted by territorial premiers, whose citizens are mostly native, as woefully inadequate” - *First Nations to get \$2B for health, water – The Calgary Herald*
- “Neville claimed she's alarmed that Prentice appears to be backing away from the financial commitments reached in the \$5.1-billion Kelowna pact, agreed to by governments of all stripes as well as the country's aboriginal leadership” - *Indian Affairs minister vows to clean up reserve water woes: Accountability, not money, the key issue, Jim Prentice says – The Edmonton Journal*
- “At a late November first ministers' meeting on native issues in Kelowna, B.C., Prime Minister Paul Martin pledged \$5.1 billion to alleviate native poverty by 2016” - *Reserve water crisis sparks major changes for aboriginals: Nationwide problems highlighted, billions pledged to deal with them – The Edmonton Journal*
- “He questions why it's taken so long, and why Ottawa would spend \$2 million to house more than three-dozen residents in hotel rooms when that cash could have been used to provide new shelters a long time ago” - *Reserve water crisis sparks major changes for aboriginals: Nationwide problems highlighted, billions pledged to deal with them – The Edmonton Journal*
- “Canada's Aboriginal Peoples will get more than \$2 billion in new money for health care, water systems on reserves, education and native policing, Finance Minister John Manley announced in Tuesday's federal budget” - *First Nations feel shortchanged: Territorial premiers to press Ottawa for additional \$60M – The Edmonton Journal*
- “The news comes amid reports the federal government will offer First Nations leaders \$3 billion to \$4 billion to raise native living standards. According to a Canadian Press report, the money will be promised over five years, and will be used to improve education, housing, health and economic development programs” - *Ontario proposes native logging in virgin forests: Idea to ease poverty on reserves comes as federal government offers extra \$4B – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “Currently, the federal government spends more than \$8 billion a year to meet its historic obligations to aboriginal people. A mind-boggling cross-section of more than two dozen departments contribute” - *Ontario proposes native logging in virgin forests: Idea to ease poverty on reserves comes as federal government offers extra \$4B – The Ottawa Citizen*

- “The Liberal platform promised to spend an additional \$1.7-billion over four years on indigenous issues in addition to previous pledges made under the Conservatives. However, the Liberals recently claimed that \$1.25-billion promised by the previous government had been secretly devoted to other issues” - *Indigenous issues to reap budget benefits; Prime Minister promises billions of dollars in 'historic investments' to improve education, housing, child welfare and water quality – The Globe and Mail*
- ““The fact of the matter is that no government has done more to repair the relationship with indigenous Canadians than this one, with \$8.4 billion over the next five years in building infrastructure, supporting young people, and supporting indigenous communities,” Trudeau told the House of Commons Tuesday” - *Trudeau's rhetoric out of step with reality: critics; First nations native leaders say words don't match record – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “On Tuesday, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett issued a statement repeating a promise that nearly 6,000 homes on reserves will be built, renovated or retrofitted in the current fiscal year, which ends March 31. She said her department had allocated \$268 million for 956 projects” - *Trudeau's rhetoric out of step with reality: critics; First nations native leaders say words don't match record – The Ottawa Citizen*

Government funding for the improvement of water quality on First Nations reserves

- “A further \$600 million will be spent over five years to upgrade, maintain and monitor water quality and sewer systems on First Nations reserves” - *First Nations to get \$2B for health, water – The Calgary Herald*
- “Prentice's prescription of standards, training and improved accountability runs counter to the Kelowna accord on aboriginals reached four more months ago by then-prime minister Paul Martin and provincial governments, which saw more money -- \$400 million more -- as the answer to chronic water-quality problems on reserves” - *Indian Affairs minister vows to clean up reserve water woes: Accountability, not money, the key issue, Jim Prentice says – The Edmonton Journal*
- The audit from commissioner of environment and sustainable development Johanne Gelinac came despite the fact Ottawa spent \$1.9 billion between 1995 and 2003 to improve drinking-water quality - *Indian Affairs minister vows to clean up reserve water woes: Accountability, not money, the key issue, Jim Prentice says – The Edmonton Journal*
- “The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has said the province's reserves alone need more than \$600 million for their water systems” - *Indian Affairs minister vows to clean up reserve water woes: Accountability, not money, the key issue, Jim Prentice says – The Edmonton Journal*
- “Ian Corbin, INAC's acting director general of community development, says a lack of trained water plant operators is a major problem on native reserves -- something Ottawa has slowly been attempting to reverse through a \$1.6-billion First Nations water management strategy” - *Water fine now, says technician: Poor staff training, low levels of chlorine, blamed for E coli – The Edmonton Journal*
- “According to 2000-01 estimates, roughly 500 water systems on reserves needed to be built or upgraded. The Indian Affairs department put the average cost at \$22 million per system. Manley's

budget would address fewer than 30 systems” - *First Nations feel shortchanged: Territorial premiers to press Ottawa for additional \$60M – The Edmonton Journal*

- “The findings prompted the federal government in 2003 to commit \$600 million over five years to improve drinking water safety in native communities -- part of the \$1.8 billion the government has committed to spending on First Nations drinking water and sewer systems between 2003 and 2008” - *38 communities warned to boil water: 21 native settlements have been under advisory for longer than Kashechewan – The Ottawa Citizen*
- "Unless strong action is taken," Ms. Gelinis told a Senate committee last month, "it is unlikely that this money, including \$600 million invested in the First Nations Water Management Strategy, will result in safer drinking water in future." - *38 communities warned to boil water: 21 native settlements have been under advisory for longer than Kashechewan – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “An engineering study has pegged the cost of correcting the reserve's drinking water problem at \$606,000. Mr. Young said staff are reviewing the study, which was received about two weeks ago. Once the review is finished, he said, "we'll be taking steps to make sure that the upgrade happens”” *38 communities warned to boil water: 21 native settlements have been under advisory for longer than Kashechewan – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “In 2003, for example, the government spent \$4 million to built a new water treatment plant in one native community. But the community has concerns about the water source and the design of the plant and has refused to use it” *38 communities warned to boil water: 21 native settlements have been under advisory for longer than Kashechewan – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “NDP leader Howard Hampton pointed to \$90 million in funds earmarked for water quality projects in northern and rural areas and said First Nations reserves will see none of the cash” - *Ontario proposes native logging in virgin forests: Idea to ease poverty on reserves comes as federal government offers extra \$4B – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “Bob Chamberlin, the new chief of the Kwicksutaineuk-ah-kwaw-ah-mish band off the east coast of Vancouver Island near Alert Bay, said the community has been drinking bottled water at a cost of \$50,000 a year for more than eight years, after the local well became infused with salt” - *Remote reserve seeks new housing: New water purification plant also sought by Kwicksutaineuk band – The Vancouver Province*
- “In March, Trudeau announced \$2 billion would be invested to end boil water advisories and sewage problems in indigenous communities” - *Hundreds in remote community without water; Frustrated chief calls on PM to honour promises amid more contamination fears – The Toronto Star*
- “It took until July 2014 - four years into the state of emergency - before the Ontario government asked companies to submit bids on a contract for the new water plant, according to public-tendering documents. Even then, the band was forced to pay \$1 million toward the \$6-million water plant. Allen is now seeking reimbursement from Ottawa” - *Remote bands 'out of sight, out of mind'; While urban reserves often get swift help, distant communities left waiting – The Toronto Star*

- "It is completely unacceptable that there are more than 100 First Nations communities in this country that do not have access to safe drinking water," Mr. Bellegarde said. "The last federal budget committed a welcome \$1.8-billion in infrastructure for First Nations"" - *Urgent action needed to make First Nations' drinking water safe, AFN chief says – The Globe and Mail*
- "Kelowna refers to the \$5-billion deal signed with First Nations in 2005 by former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin that aimed to address a wide range of issues affecting Canada's indigenous peoples, but was scrapped when the Conservatives came to power. It included a promise of \$400-million to bring clean water to remote indigenous communities" - *Trouble on tap; Water problems face by First Nations communities may be too big to be solved by cash alone – The Globe and Mail*
- ""To remove the 2-per-cent cap, to give us clean water and to spend more on education are the kind of investments that will pay off for our people and the country," Mr. Bellegarde said. He pointed to a study by the Centre for Living Standards that projected the economic payoff of educating and employing aboriginal people in the work force would result in an estimated \$36.5-billion increase in GDP by 2026 and a \$12-billion reduction in government spending on First Nations programs" - *Indigenous issues to reap budget benefits; Prime Minister promises billions of dollars in 'historic investments' to improve education, housing, child welfare and water quality – The Globe and Mail*
- "The 2016 federal budget pledged an additional \$1.8-billion for water infrastructure in native communities. But as of Nov. 30, Health Canada reported 130 boil-water advisories in effect in 85 communities; a year earlier, the tally was 139 in 94 communities" - *Wanted: Send more than just money – The Globe and Mail*
- "It indicated water and wastewater servicing needs could cost \$4.7-billion, plus a projected operating and maintenance cost of \$419-million per year, Angus noted. The Liberals have also made other sweeping commitments on the aboriginal affairs file including a promise to lift the two-per-cent cap on annual funding increases for reserve programs and services" - *Pressure mounts for feds to overhaul fiscal relationship with First Nations – The Hamilton Spectator*

Increasing price of fishing/trapping licenses for First Nations people

- "Hundreds of boat crew lost work in towns where there are no other jobs. Prices of \$300,000 for a lobster license eroded the tradition of keeping licenses in the family" - *A fresh look at an old problem – The Toronto Star*
- "When the Supreme Court of Canada granted natives the right to fish year-round and without a license, it also threatened the livelihood of area fishing families, said Ms. Atkinson. "Most families find this very stressful," she said, explaining that many non-natives owe money to banks that have financed \$100,000 fishing licenses" - *Non-native fishermen take over wharfs: Boat flotilla forms peaceful protest of native fishing rights – The Ottawa Citizen*

Failure by the government to spend allocated funding for First Nations Water

- "The HRW wants to know why Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), failed to spend funds over five recent fiscal years and sent more than \$1 billion in funds back to the Treasury Board as "surplus" when it could have been used to clean up the water, the report said" - *Canada blasted for*

unsafe water on reserves; Human Rights Watch found E coli, other pollutants in untreated First Nations water – The Toronto Star

- “Assembly of First Nations estimated that about \$25.5-billion in federal money has failed to flow to communities since funding was capped in 1996” - *Pressure mounts for feds to overhaul fiscal relationship with First Nations – The Hamilton Spectator*

Statements, Action from Canadian Politicians

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau

- “In the last election, Justin Trudeau promised that, if elected, he would fix things, and put an end to the frequent and widespread boil-water advisories in native communities - by 2021” – *Wanted: Send more than just money - The Globe and Mail*
- “Demonstrators gathered in the middle of the concrete and commercial garden of Dundas square on a chilly Monday afternoon to urge prime minister Justin Trudeau to respect indigenous rights and especially the environment” – *Call to protect land and water; Indigenous protesters gather at Dundas Square to press prime minister for action - The Toronto Star*
- “We have homegrown refugees in Canada who aren't prioritized enough to justify a Justin Trudeau greeting at an airport or a tear shed from the prime minister that made for such a great, heartstrings-tugging photo shoot” – *Canada ignores its own refugees – The Toronto Star*
- “Data obtained by the globe also found that without significant changes to its approach, the federal government risks falling short of prime minister Justin Trudeau's election promise to eliminate boil-water advisories on reserves within five years” – *Urgent action needed to make First Nations' drinking water safe, AFN chief says – The Globe and Mail*
- “Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during the recent election campaign that, if elected, he would end the need for boil-water advisories on first nations within five years.” – *Trouble on Tap; Water problems faced by First Nations communities may be too big to be solved by cash alone – The Globe and Mail*
- “Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is promising Tuesday's budget will deliver "historic investments" to improve the lives of Canada's indigenous people - funding that will amount to billions of dollars” - *Indigenous issues to reap budget benefits; Prime Minister promises billions of dollars in 'historic investments' to improve education, housing, child welfare and water quality – The Globe and Mail*
- "On Monday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised that improved tracking of marine vessels and enhanced sharing of marine-traffic information with indigenous communities on the coast in real-time will be part of the ocean-protection plan he announced in Vancouver" - *PM vows better ship tracking for coastal indigenous groups – The Globe and Mail*
- “Under fire from his political opponents for not doing enough for the welfare of aboriginal children, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was indignant in reply” - *Trudeau's rhetoric out of step with reality: critics; First nations native leaders say words don't match record – The Ottawa Citizen*

- “Prime Minister Justin Trudeau praised the report, saying “this is a time of real and positive change” - *Time to fund the Indigenous Guardians; Over 50 MPs urge finance minister to invest in network – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “On Monday, Liberal leader Justin Trudeau said he would devote part of his proposed infrastructure spending to providing clean drinking water to the 93 communities subject to Health Canada boil-water advisories, some for decades” – *A national priority – The Montreal Gazette*
- “Prime minister Justin Trudeau has promised a “total renewal” of Canada's relationship with its aboriginal peoples” – *Human rights, and a legacy of uncomfortable truths – The Hamilton Spectator*

Indian Affairs Minister, Andy Scott

- “Operators at almost 90 per cent of water treatment facilities on reserves across the country have some training, said Campbell Morrison, the press secretary at Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott's office” - *Report outlines water problems in over a dozen native reserves – The Globe and Mail*
- “According to Campbell Morrison, press secretary to Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott, a group called Northern Waterworks has been dispatched to the community to “help out on the immediate issue and provide assistance to the first nation” - *Reserve's medical emergency did not come as a surprise; Boil-water advisory in place for two years – The Globe and Mail*
- “But federal Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott struck back yesterday, saying the evacuation was Ontario's responsibility” - *Indifference to native people shows again; Children sickened by contaminated water; federal government drenched in blame – The Globe and Mail*
- “Yet even as McGuinty took the initiative to evacuate the residents of Kashechewan, federal Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott made excuses for his appalling neglect” - *Inexcusable neglect – The Toronto Star*
- “Ontario Natural Resources minister David Ramsay, who is responsible for aboriginal affairs, said an impasse over jurisdictional responsibility with federal Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott was broken at noon yesterday” - *Province charters aircraft for mission dispute with Ottawa finally resolved – The Toronto Star*
- ““The government of Canada will take any and all measures necessary to ensure safe drinking water,” said besieged Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott, as sick natives were being evacuated from Kashechewan by the Ontario government” - *Joblessness at root of natives' problems – The Toronto Star*
- “On Thursday, Indian Affairs Minister Andy Scott pledged to build 500 new homes on higher ground over the next 10 years for the stricken community” - *Cleanup promise worth billions – The Toronto Star*
- “With public attention beginning to focus, Federal Indian Affairs minister Andy Scott decided to visit the reserve, giving the crisis credibility.” - *Getting the media to carry the message: Stories of native hardships are often overlooked by the mainstream media, writes Alex Hutchinson. So piquing reporters' interest took a special effort – The Ottawa Citizen*

Ambiguous Jurisdiction of First Nations Reserves

- “While the federal government is responsible for Native Canadians, the source of drinking water on a reserve in Ontario falls under the province's jurisdiction” – *Ontario demands federal action on native issues; Minister bound for Ottawa to discuss Caledonia, water and sewage services* – *The Globe and Mail*
- “Attorney-General Ian Scott argues that native leaders would object to the province's acting in what might be federal jurisdiction, because it could reduce Ottawa's responsibility for native affairs” - *Province must help natives, NDP insists* – *The Globe and Mail*
- “The two workers who managed Kashechewan's water-treatment and waste-management plants would not have been allowed to operate such plants in an Ontario jurisdiction because they lack the proper provincial certification, sources told the Globe” - *Report outlines water problems in over a dozen native reserves* – *The Globe and Mail*
- "Mr. Rae contends that instead of worrying about who has constitutional jurisdiction in the region, the liberal government should establish a fund to enable native communities to pay for systems that are considered basic to life in southern Ontario" - *Province must help natives, NDP insists* – *The Globe and Mail*
- “Part of the problem is that native reserves fall under federal jurisdiction, which means they have far lower standards for safe drinking water than the rest of Ontario” - *Province charters aircraft for mission*
Dispute with Ottawa finally resolved – *The Toronto Star*
- “Mr. Smitherman and Mr. Kwinter told reporters it was not their responsibility to deal with the water problem because native communities fall within Ottawa's jurisdiction” - *Tempers flare with Ottawa as airlift of natives begins* – *The Globe and Mail*
- “Ottawa has jurisdiction over native affairs but "does not have the capacity" to oversee water operations on reserves” - *Regulator needs to monitor reserve's water, chief says* – *The Toronto Star*

Comparisons Made Between Native and Non-Native Communities

- “The overcrowding rate in native dwellings was 16 times the non-native rate in 1986” - *2-billion needed for native homes MPs call for immediate federal action* – *The Globe and Mail*
- “Deaths from fires are 3 times the non-native level because of unsafe housing” - *2-billion needed for native homes MPs call for immediate federal action* – *The Globe and Mail*
- “He said the protest is aimed at ensuring protection of the Chemainus River watershed, and in the long run, that will benefit non-native residents of the area as much as natives on the reserve” - *Indian band calls for hate-crime investigation; Halalt health office sprayed with racist graffiti after members organize blockade to fight water development project on Vancouver Island* – *The Globe and Mail*

- ““Native populations tend to have a high rate of these abnormal birth occurrences than do the non-native populations,” he said. “That’s been known for a long time. Most of these things are tied fairly closely to socioeconomic conditions ”” - *Birth defects not tied to St. Clair, study says – The Globe and Mail*
- “They said they considered the 600-trap limit insulting, considering there are anywhere between 800 to 1,200 native-owned lobster cages already in the Miramichi waters. The Mi’kmaq said it would be hard for their community to accept a 600-trap ceiling when non-natives who hold commercial fishing licenses can own up to 325 cages each” - *Ottawa won't stop natives from fishing Minister promises to limit number of traps, but Mi'kmaq activists reject compromise – The Globe and Mail*
- “One item in a recent day’s outpouring of news stories was startling -- the rate of tuberculosis among Canadian natives is 43 times higher than among non-natives” - *What other newspapers are saying about the tuberculosis rate among natives, freedom of information and the conservative agenda – The Calgary Herald*
- “First Nations communities in northern Ontario could begin commercial logging in the province’s vast, untouched boreal forests, Ontario’s natural resources minister said yesterday. The idea is one of several the province will table at a first ministers meeting later this month in Kelowna, B.C., designed to address the income gap between native and non-native communities” - *Ontario proposes native logging in virgin forests: Idea to ease poverty on reserves comes as federal government offers extra \$4B – The Ottawa Citizen*
- “Elements of a \$5.1-billion federal funding package reached in November to improve living standards on native reserves: - \$1.8 billion to close the educational gap so that by 2016, aboriginal high school graduation rates are the Canadian norm and postsecondary graduation is much closer to non-native rates” - *Reserve crisis spurs action – The Hamilton Spectator*