

Snapshot: Aboriginal and Small Community Drinking Water Issues

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Connecting Water Resources 2015
March 10, 2015

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Aboriginal
Energy Law**

Not Safe to Drink

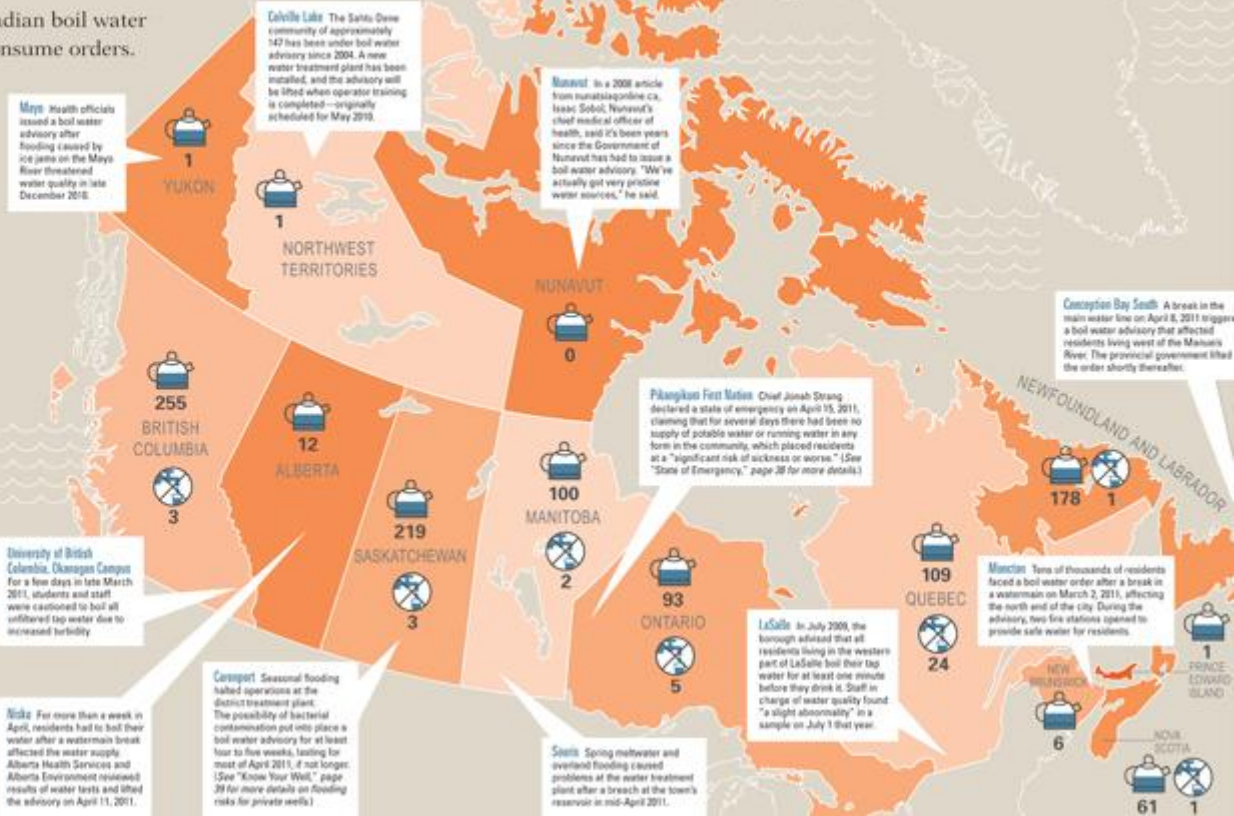
A brief snapshot of Canadian boil water advisories and do not consume orders.

BY 2008, the Canadian Medical Association Journal reported that there were 1,766 boil water advisories in effect across the country.

There is no official national database of boil water advisories in Canada. Many communities do not have the resources to develop reporting systems and must rely on posted notices, word-of-mouth, or local news organizations to make such announcements. Even with the best reporting technologies, there are bound to be several residents who might not receive such notices, putting them at risk of consuming what may possibly be contaminated water. Turn to page 38 for expanded details of two cases.



Note: Due to reporting variances, these numbers are best estimates.
Thanks to The Water Chronicle (watercan.net) for providing recent data.
The Water Chronicle



Drinking Water Challenges

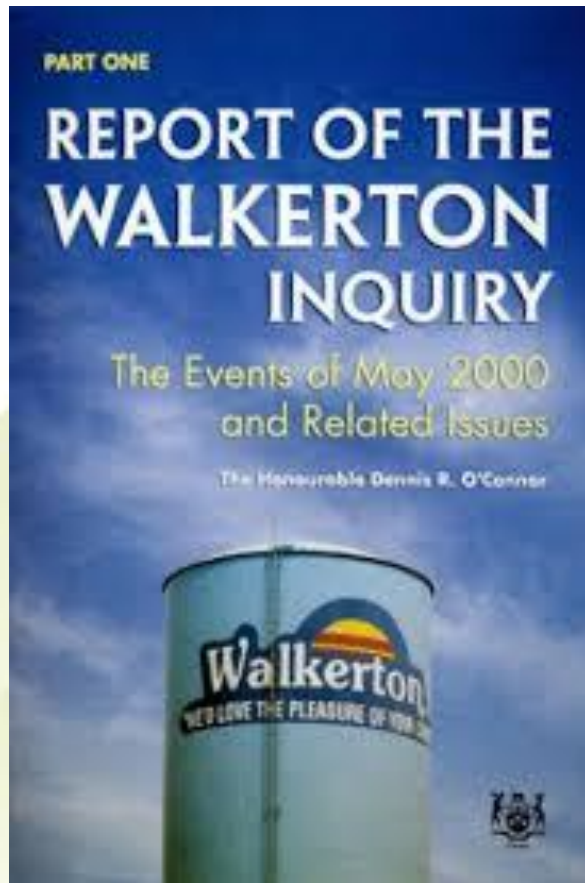
Image Source: www.watercanada.net

Walkerton and its Legacy



Image Sources: www.diemer.ca, www.globalnews.ca, www.thestar.ca

Post-Walkerton Water Reforms



- *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*
- *Water Quality Standards Regulation*
- *Drinking Water Systems Regulation*
- *Clean Water Act*
- **Increased inspections and compliance**

Financial Picture

- **Replace aging water and wastewater infrastructure across Canada – \$64.9 billion (\$5,218/household)**
- **Capital costs of \$800,000 for Ontario municipalities (2005) to comply (excl. Source Protection)**
- **Reduction in federal cost sharing**
- **Greater burden on smaller municipalities**

Watertight Report

- ***Watertight: the case for change on Ontario's water and wastewater sector (2005)***
 - increase scale and capacity by joining smaller water systems
 - implement full cost recovery from customers
 - stronger private sector role overall
 - reduce regulatory burden, focusing instead on results

Post-Watertight Report

- **Negatively received by municipalities, CUPE, CELA, OWMA**
- **Concerns**
 - erosion of accountability, transparency
 - dismantling public ownership of water systems
 - removing control of elected municipal councils

Post-Watertight Report

- ***Safe Drinking Water Act***
 - financial plans
- ***Ontario Water Opportunities Act***
 - water sustainability plans regulations yet to be developed
 - financial plans, asset management plans
 - performance indicators and targets

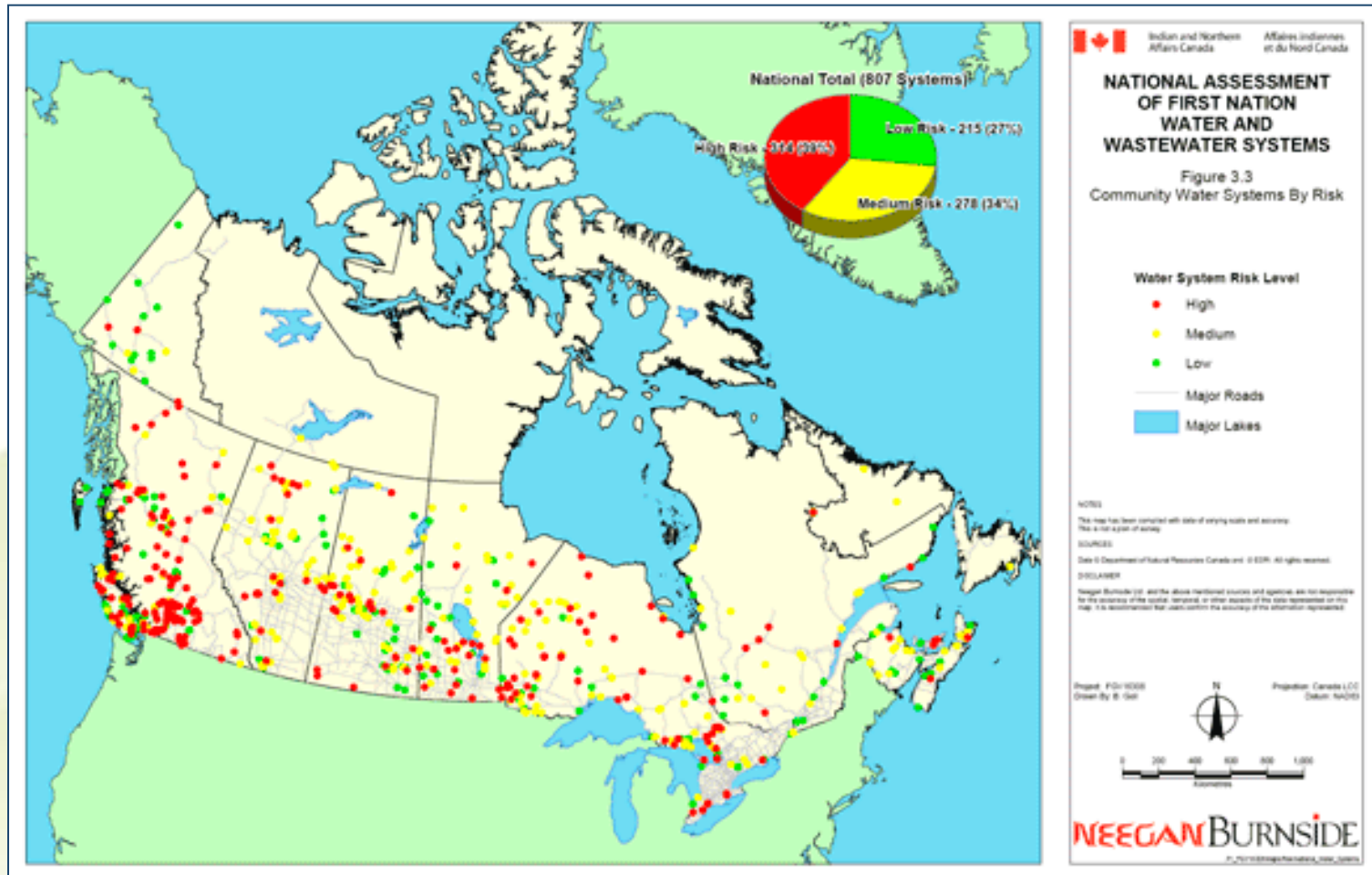
Small Municipalities



Image Source: www.maxxam.ca

- **Investment?**
- **Private sector role?**
- **New ideas?**

Aboriginal Communities



Report of the Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations



- **Small/remote**
- **Many players**
- **Underestimate costs because no comparables**
- **Devolution of responsibilities**

Image Sources: www.doinionpaper.ca, www.wn.com

Report of the Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations

- **Funding arrangements do not always support lowest life cycle costs**
- **Policies and processes not always efficient and effective**
- **Capacity is growing**
- **Enforcement needs to include all participants (design through to operation)**
- **Solutions need community support**

Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act



- **In force Nov. 1 2013**
- **Water and wastewater**
- **No regulations yet**

Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act

- **Enables enforceable regulations**
 - drinking water standards
 - training and certification of operators
 - treatment, sampling and monitoring
 - location, design of systems
 - protection of drinking water sources
 - emergency response

Aboriginal Communities



Image Source: www.globalnews.ca

- **Technology**
- **Culture**
- **New solutions?**



Image Source: www.cbc.ca

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