

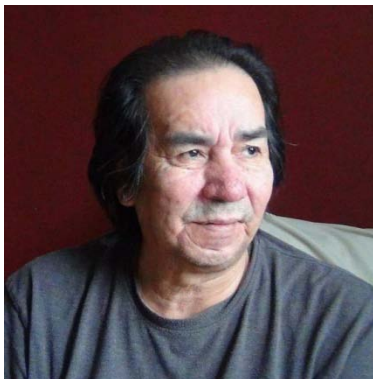


Ensuring water safety for stricken First Nations communities

Up until the 1970s, unchecked dumping of wastes from a chemical plant in Dryden, Ontario resulted in the release of thousands of tonnes of mercury into the English-Wabigoon river system. Although the dumping was stopped after alarms were raised, the damage was already done: mercury remained in the river's sediments and bio-accumulated in its wildlife. The people of Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows) downstream of the discharge point, who are dependent on the area's abundant walleye population for protein, began showing debilitating symptoms of Minimata disease, or chronic mercury poisoning.



Jody Porter, CBC



Former Chief Steve Frobister died in 2018 from mercury poisoning-related illness. – TheStar.com

Due to the persistent nature of mercury in organisms, the water contamination at Grassy Narrows has not diminished over the years. Despite clean-up efforts, the extent of the problem is such that residents continue to be plagued by degenerative neural disorders, diminished motor skills and deaths attributable to mercury poisoning. The people of Grassy Narrows need more than empty promises—they need action to be taken to ensure that mercury from the contaminated river does not enter their water distribution system and reduce their reliance on bottled water.

Technologies to treat surface water contaminated with mercury do exist and need to be implemented at Grassy Narrows. But this is not enough—continuous monitoring with real-time alerts is required to ensure the efficacy and diligent upkeep of such a treatment system. A.U.G. Signals Ltd. (AUG) is uniquely well-equipped for this role; with years of experience providing remote First Nations with online drinking water quality surveillance, we are familiar with the characteristic needs of these communities.



A local water operator is trained on-site on the use of AUG's TRITON water surveillance system, Deer Lake First Nation.

AUG's TRITON water surveillance system has been installed in 19 First Nations communities in northern Ontario and has helped eliminate numerous boil water advisories. TRITON's solutions are customizable based on the user's requirements, and AUG's highly-trained staff are fully capable of integrating the most cutting-edge and rigorous technologies available for monitoring key contaminants, such as mercury.

**Please contact us for more
information**

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