Neskantaga ON
Neskantaga First Nation

• A fly-in Oji-Cree community of 300
• 430 kilometres NE of Thunder Bay
• Under a boil water advisory since 1995 when its filtration system broke
  • Needed to make lake water potable
• Small reverse-osmosis machine available in a shed next to the town motel
• Otherwise $5/jug from the store
Oct 2015

• Trudeau government commits to making First Nations water drinkable by 2021
• In 2017 government announces $8.8 M upgrade to water plant at Neskantaga
  • Hires Kingdom Construction Ltd of Ayr ON
• Due to complete 30 May 2018
Feb 2019

• Water plant still incomplete
  • Lack of a concrete mixer delays concrete pouring to early 2018
• Electrical power not connected
• No furnace to heat treatment plant
• Minister Jane Philpott gets shuffled, replaced by Sheamus O’Regan
Feb 2019

• Neskantaga FN fires the contractors, goes back to bottled water
• People hate traipsing to the osmosis machine in the shed with the slippery ice around it
Boil water advisories

• When Trudeau comes to power Oct 2015 there were 105 boil water advisories in First Nations communities
  • Government pledges to eliminate all by 2021
• But 62 or so remain
• Neskantaga FN, Ontario: 25 years
• Shoal Lake FN, Ontario: 20 years
• Slate Falls FN, Ontario: 14 years