Schefferville QC

• Northern Quebec, close to Labrador border
• No road: access by air, rail
• Established by Iron Ore Co of Canada 1954 to serve a major iron mine
• Mid-Canada Line cold-war radar site
Schefferville QC

• Indigenous communities of Innu, Naskapi brought in to help with construction
• Neglected, given an in-town reserve, only got housing in early 1970s
Schefferville

• Population peaked at 5000 in 1960s
• Mine closed 1982 by IOC president, Brian Mulroney
• 4000 people leave, demolitions of surplus housing
• Town dis-incorporated 1986
Schefferville

• Naskapi, Innu remain
• Arranged to take over remaining housing
• Town re-incorporated 1990
Schefferville

• Naskapi, Innu took over the passenger service of the Quebec, North Shore & Labrador Railway
  • Sept Iles to Schefferville, the Tshiuetin Train
  • The only indigenous-run railway in Canada
Schefferville QC

• Maintaining the rail link will be expensive, technically demanding
• Indigenous folk have developed their own culture of rail travel
• Indigenous railway accommodates their hunting camps and lifestyle
• Post-industrial mining town ruins turned into a indigenous homeland