

Indigenous storytelling for collaboration, respect, and community resilience

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Overview

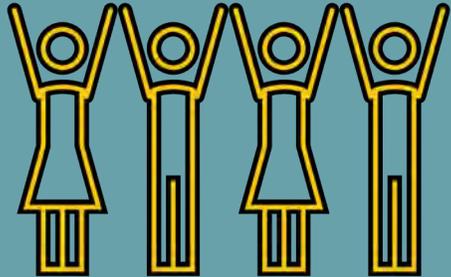
- I. Introduction
- II. Noela's StoryMap
- III. Meaningful collaboration
- IV. Discussion

Storytelling



Storytelling

Can be collaborative



Culturally-relevant to
Indigenous peoples



StoryMaps team

2019 community meetings

Priority narratives



ArcGIS StoryMaps

Goal?

Photo source: Andrew Clark, Maine Beacon (<https://mainebeacon.com/tribal-leaders-seek-to-end-decades-long-ordeal-bring-clean-water-to-pleasant-point/>)

Key takeaways

Collaboration deepens
storytelling



Replicable throughout
Maine





DRINKING WATER NOTICE

LEVEL OF TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES IN THE DRINKING WATER EXCEEDS FEDERAL DRINKING WATER STANDARD

A recent multi-site water test conducted by the Pleasant Point Tribal Government showed that the average level of trihalomethanes in the water system at Pleasant Point was 121 parts per billion (ppb). This is above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed for total trihalomethanes in drinking water, which is 80 ppb.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

There is nothing that you need to do at this time other than to be aware that the water test confirms high levels of contamination, named above. Please take precautions if you have specific health problems.

POSSIBLE HEALTH EFFECTS:

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes over time could experience liver, kidney and central nervous system problems and increased the risk of cancer. CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC HEALTH CONCERNS.

The Tribe is in touch with Passamaquoddy Water District (PWD) regarding this problem, which may not be resolved until improvements are made to the PWD system in late 2021 or early 2022.

We will inform you when this problem has been addressed.

For more information, please contact:

Passamaquoddy Water District

pwdeastport@myfairpoint.net

207-853-2924

Sipayik Environmental

wlongfellow@wabanaki.com

Please share this information with all other people who drink the water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.

Recent drinking water notice

- Byproduct of chlorination process
- Over 1.5x above federal standards

My Family's Experience



Photo of bath tub filled up with brown water for bath time.

This is what the bathtub at my house looks like when you fill it up. I haven't bathed here since I was a newborn.

My family didn't know what filtered shower heads or sink filters were. I had bad eczema as a child, and the water flared it up when I would bathe. When I was six, I moved to Old Town where I had clean water. Then I moved back home to Sipayik at 15. Living here now, I refuse to bathe because our water still looks the same and does the same thing to my skin. Also, while I have a filtered shower head, our showers have a yellow film covering the bottom that we have to clean daily. It stains from the discoloration of the water. I don't even feel clean when I shower.





This map shows what the above photos can't show. We surveyed 21 people across five areas of the reservation:

- Wab Place (Orange)
- Hollywood (Blue)
- Top of Hill (Purple)
- Backroad (Red)
- Old Section (Green)

Findings

- Demographics
- Of the 21 respondents, 17 people rely on tap water for drinking water
- None of the 21 respondents treat their drinking water
- All but one person has trouble accessing clean drinking water
- Everyone either has experience with cancer or knows someone with cancer



Brian Altvater Sr.

Born November 18, 1955

I am a Passamaquoddy Tribal member, born in 1955 and have lived here my entire life. There were very few homes that had running water in the early 60's, folks had to take cat baths back then. Less than five homes had running water but gradually the availability of water to each home became possible by the mid-seventies when over 90% of the reservation homes had running water.

Deborah Lynn Yarmal

Born June 10, 1962

I grew up in a one room shack that my grandfather bought from Sally Doyle (Rick Doyle's Grandmother) in the mid-1949's for \$300.



Photo of my grandmother, Deborah Yarmal.

It had no running water, bathroom, or electricity. We had an old wood stove that we used to heat water for cooking, cleaning, washing dishes and clothes, and bathing.

Every morning, my sisters and I had to walk to the closest water pump and carry water home in metal buckets. We each had to do at least six trips, and in the winter, my oldest sister had to take boiling water to the pump and unthaw it before it would work. Sometimes it took her several trips, with boiling water, before it would thaw.

Noela's reflections...

- Personal experiences & LD 906
- Connection to culture
- Voice for community struggles



Link to the StoryMap:

<https://tinyurl.com/sipayik-water>

* E-mail sign up sheets available

Collaboration & Indigenous storytelling



Collaborate across differences

Share skills & knowledge

Respect indigenous
sovereignty

Center Wabanaki
diplomacy

Support community resilience

Photo of Denise Altvater.

Photo source: Andrew Clark, Maine Beacon

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Contact & Acknowledgements



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