

JUSTICE FOR GRASSY NARROWS

Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows) in northern Ontario was a vibrant and largely self-sufficient community with 95% employment in occupations directly tied to the river and land in which they're situated.

That was, however, until a paper company heartlessly dumped 9,000 kg of untreated mercury into their river system between 1962 and 1970—resulting in one of Canada's worst environmental disasters.





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THE EFFECTS OF MERCURY,
IT'S A SILENT KILLER.
TAKES ITS TIME AND SLOWLY
WORKS ON YOU. YOUR NERVES,
YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR VISION.
EVERYTHING STARTS TO GO
AWAY A BIT OVER TIME.

- ROBERT WILLIAMSON, TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE KEEPER For more than five decades, the people of Grassy Narrows have been fighting for their rights, urging the government to address the mercury crisis. The mercury poisoning has now affected this community for three generations with deadly consequences—especially for youth.



On June 20, 2019, members of Grassy Narrows First Nation and their supporters took to the streets of Toronto for their bi-annual River Run event—a march and protest organized to call for mercury justice.

(photo credit: Allan Lissner)



Today, Grassy Narrows is pursuing fair compensation for the whole community in order to restore the wellbeing and culture that mercury stole from them.

They continue to work to protect their homeland from industrial mining and logging, fighting to enjoy their Indigenous way of life and ensuring that they are never poisoned again.



Grassy Narrows 2019 Powwor

(photo credit: Allan Lissner)



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THE ROAD TO HEALING
FOR GRASSY NARROWS INVOLVES
ADDRESSING THE LEGACY OF
MERCURY POISONING THROUGH
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE,
ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION
AND SUPPORT FOR
CULTURE REVITALIZATION.

- MAKA FOBISTER, INDIGENOUS YOUTH

Reparations are the antidote to inequality.

We all want a future where everyone is free. For that to happen we must reckon with the whole truth of our history to heal past harms.

Restoration of rights, compensation, rehabilitation, recognition of wrongdoing, and guarantees that these harms will never be repeated are required for justice to be served and people and communities to be made whole.



(photo credit: Allan Lissner)



Stand with the Grassy Narrows First Nation.

