

First Nations Water Security and Pathways to Collaboration

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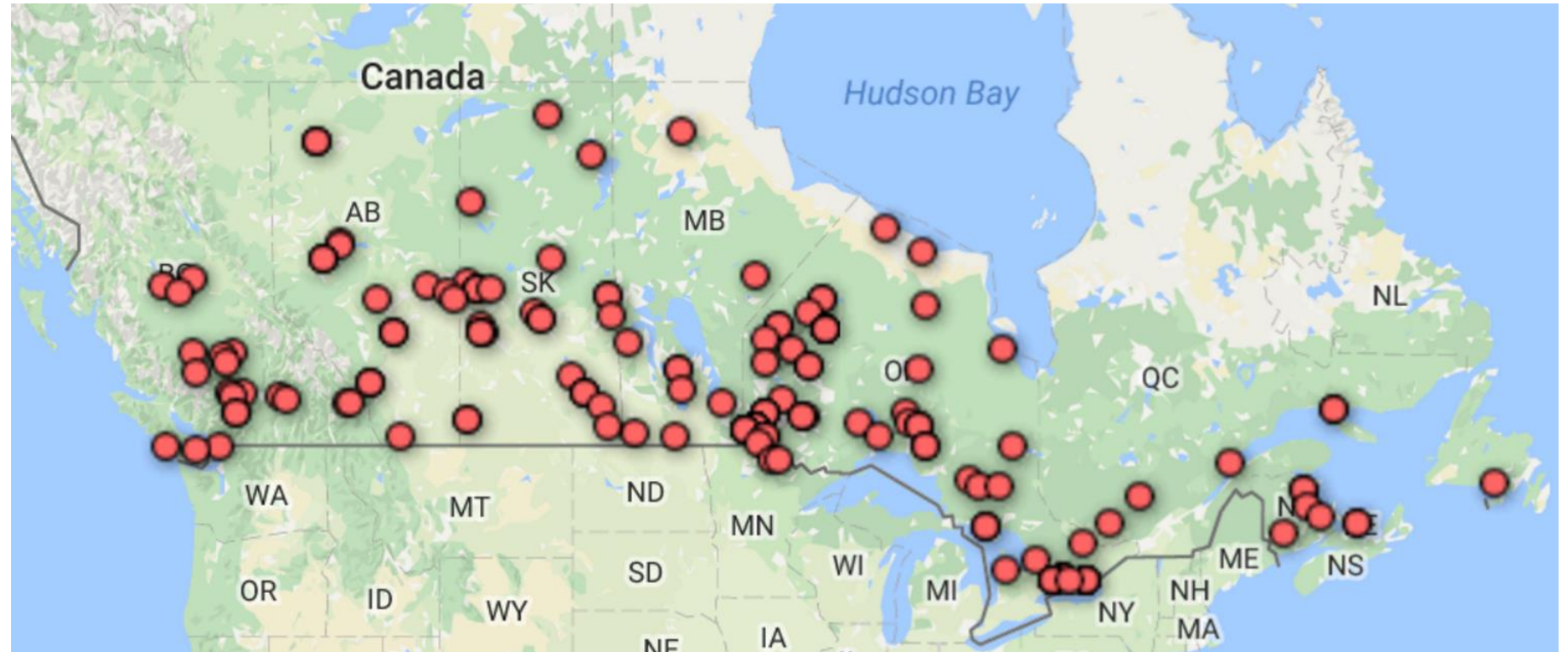
CCRF RPLC Conference
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First Nations Water Crisis

1 in every 6
First Nation
community is
under a
drinking water
advisory
(DWA)

...some for
years up to
decades!





First Nations Water Advisories, December 2015

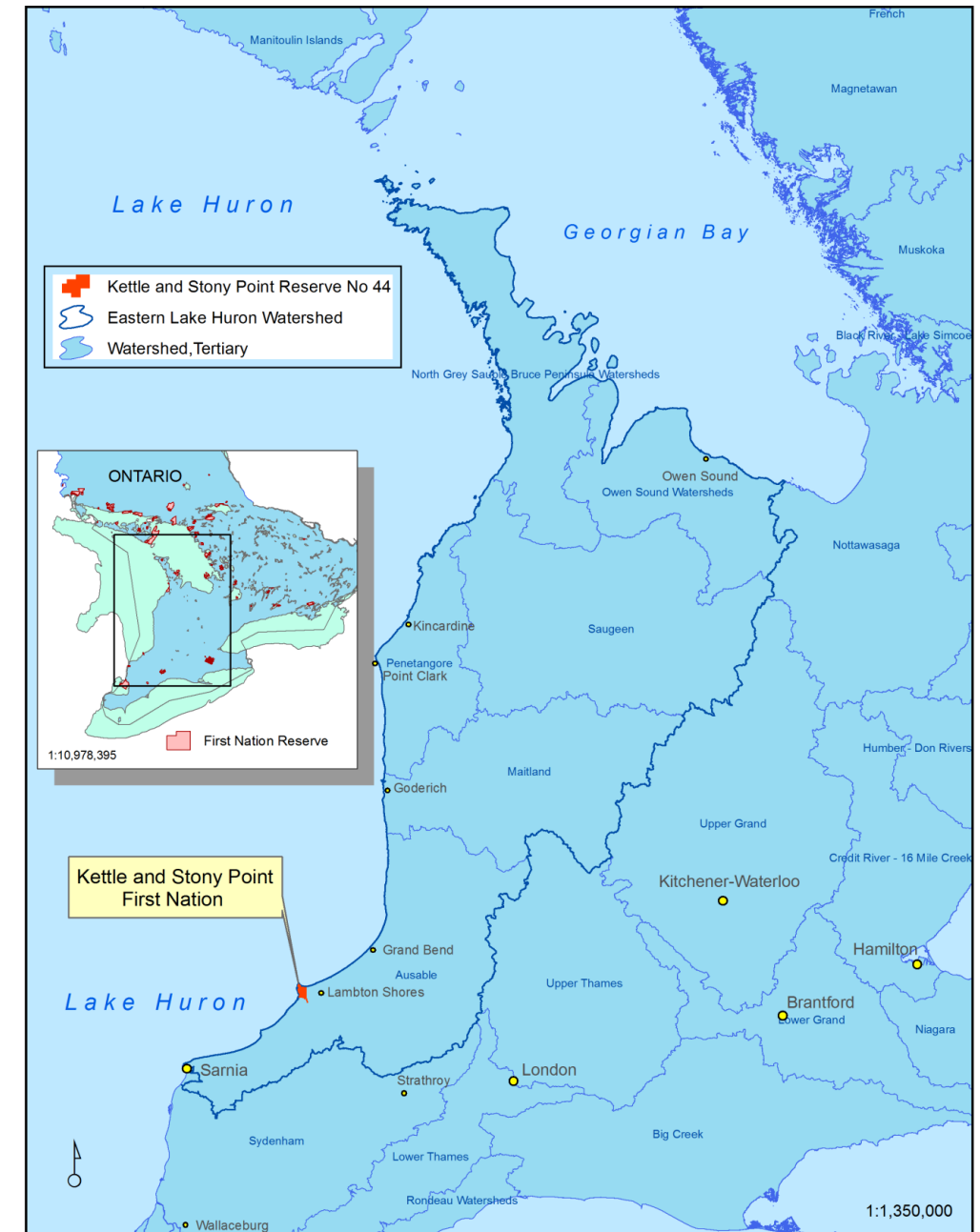
<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/map-water-advisories-for-first-nations-communities-in-canada-1.2705228>

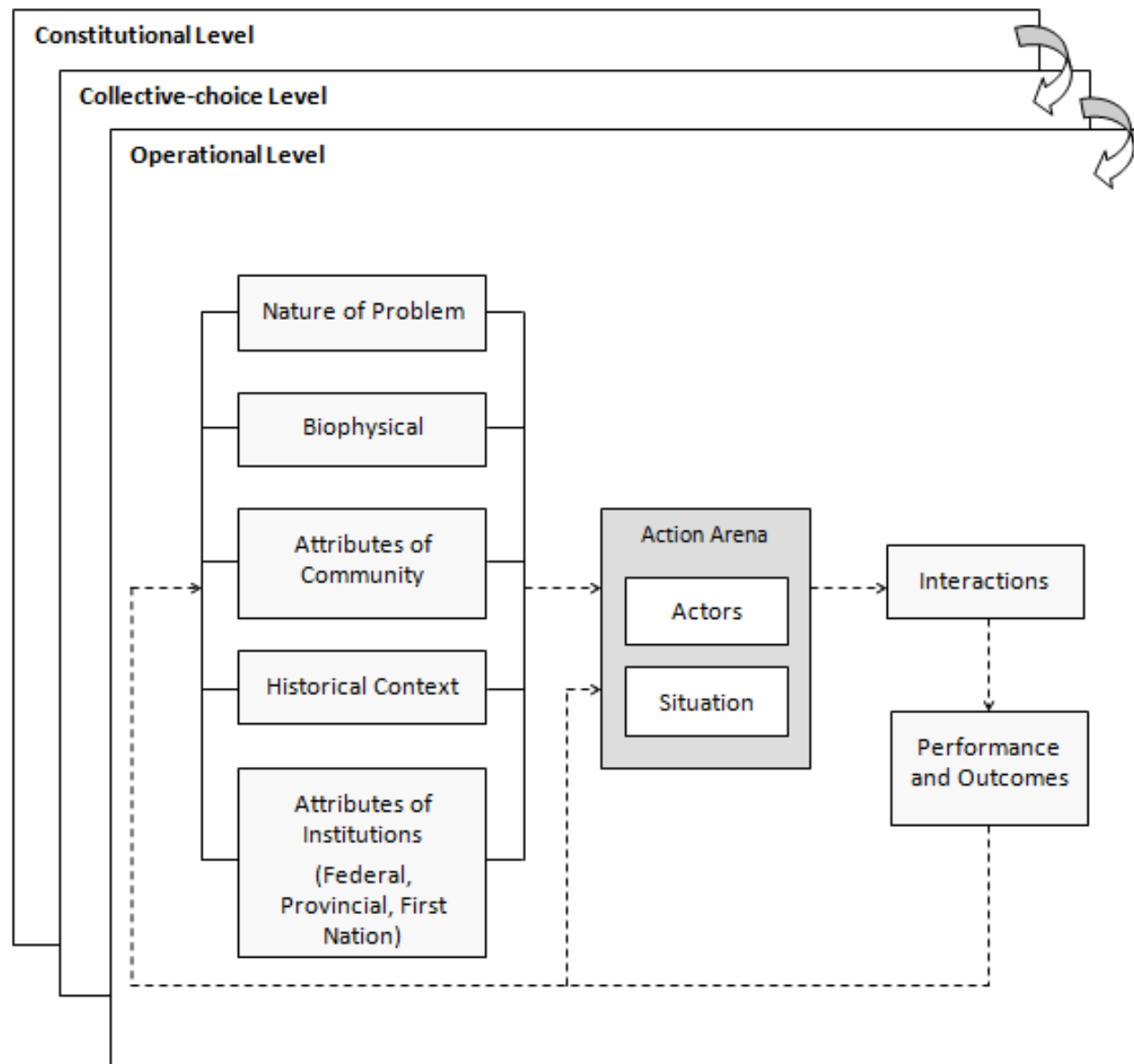
Canada
boasts 1/5
of the
world's
renewable
freshwater
supplies.

Why does water insecurity persist in First Nations communities in Canada?

Methods

- Case study
- Great Lakes watershed
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- 40 water actors
- Semi-structured
- NVivo coding
- Data triangulation
- 100 documents





(Modified from Imperial 1999; Ostrom 1999; Polski and Ostrom 1999)

Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework

Internal variables on-reserve

- Water and Wastewater System
- Indian Act governance
- Financial arrangements
- Laws and regulations
- Community factors – social, economic, environmental



External variables impacting community water

- Rights and jurisdiction
- Lack of involvement in external water governance
- Surrounding land use and activities
- Broader Great Lakes governance
- Regional socio-economic factors



Pathways for action – multi-level



There are collaborative pathways for all actors!

Practical recommendations → starting points for collaboration

- View collaboration as a benefit not an impediment
- Establish a policy commitment to collaboration
- Understand the community its culture, history and aspirations
- Establish informal relationships in 'good times'
- Review existing protocols and collaborative procedures
- Capacity building (two-way) and information sharing
- Co-create new collaborative models (incremental)
- Where necessary ally, advocate and support one another



With gratitude to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation and the Anishinabek Elders who participated in the research.

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