

WATER

ON WHEELS



THE ATTAWAPISKAT COMMUNITY.

Access to clean water is a basic human right, and yet of the 134 First Nations in Ontario, 45% are at high risk for water insecurity.

Attawapiskat, a community in Northern Ontario, is home to 2000 people and has 300 houses on their reserve. In this community, the water is contaminated and not safe to drink or use when it comes out of the tap. There is also only one community water outlet for 2000 people. To use the water, families have to boil their water and let it cool before they can use it. They even need to boil the water they use to brush their teeth and give their pets!

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is working with the chief and council members in Attawapiskat for the "Water on Wheels" campaign. Because families need to travel a distance to access water for their homes at a community water outlet, it can be a challenge to carry it. (Water is heavy!) The Water on Wheels campaign provides people with carts to help them carry water back to their houses.



ACTIVITY: WATER ON WHEELS



Lace up your running shoes and go for a 1km family walk, just like families in places like Attawapiskat do to collect water. If you have a wheelbarrow or wagon, bring it along and if you want an extra challenge, fill it with some water jugs! Take turns pushing the wheelbarrow or pulling the wagon.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



As you walk, talk about how your muscles are feeling, both on the way there and on the way home.

How would having to walk for your family's water change the way you live?

PRAY



Give thanks for the clean water that we do have in our neighbourhoods. Ask God to give wisdom to our leaders as they navigate how to best address the issue of clean water in remote communities.

Pray for the health of people impacted by limited access to clean water.

NEXT STEPS



- Check out "[As Long as the Rivers Flow](#)", a map outlining water quality in Ontario First Nations put together by MCC. Learn about communities who are affected by water insecurity.
- Share what you've learned with a friend or family member.
- Consider hosting a fundraiser for Peacemakers. You could have a lemonade stand on your street, host an art sale of peace-themed art your family makes, or run a road hockey tournament! Check out themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers for more ideas & instructions on how to set up a fundraiser.

