

# Six Nation water good and bad

by Denise Dicy

SIX NATIONS - Six Nations has had its share of problems when it comes to its water supply and with the recent association of aluminum and Alzheimer's disease and the publication of abnormally high levels of aluminum in Six Nations' water, a neighbouring newspaper has once again sounded the alarm. The question, though, is there cause for alarm?

Six Nations Band Council Chief Steve Williams says he "can't understand" how a doctor can be quoted saying that there is a health risk posed by high levels of aluminum in drinking water when there's no set standards and considered the article in question to be "out of line" for the reporter did not check with Band Council for information before running with it.

Brian Jobbs, a Ministry of the Environment personnel who has worked on Six Nations' water previously for NDMA, said that there was nothing to

worry about and I "can only go by what he tells us," says Williams.

However, according to Dr. Barry Thomas, a toxicologist at Health Canada, developments have led Health Canada to the belief that there may be a risk posed by aluminum to the point

that Health Canada has been working on the health implications of aluminum for two years and now that their study is almost completed they are proceeding towards proposing guidelines for aluminum content levels in drinking water.

When asked about the high

levels of aluminum in Six Nations' water [1994 readings reached a maximum of 1100 parts per billion (ppb) at the Ohsweken plant], Thomas confirmed that Six Nations' levels were high and added that the

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