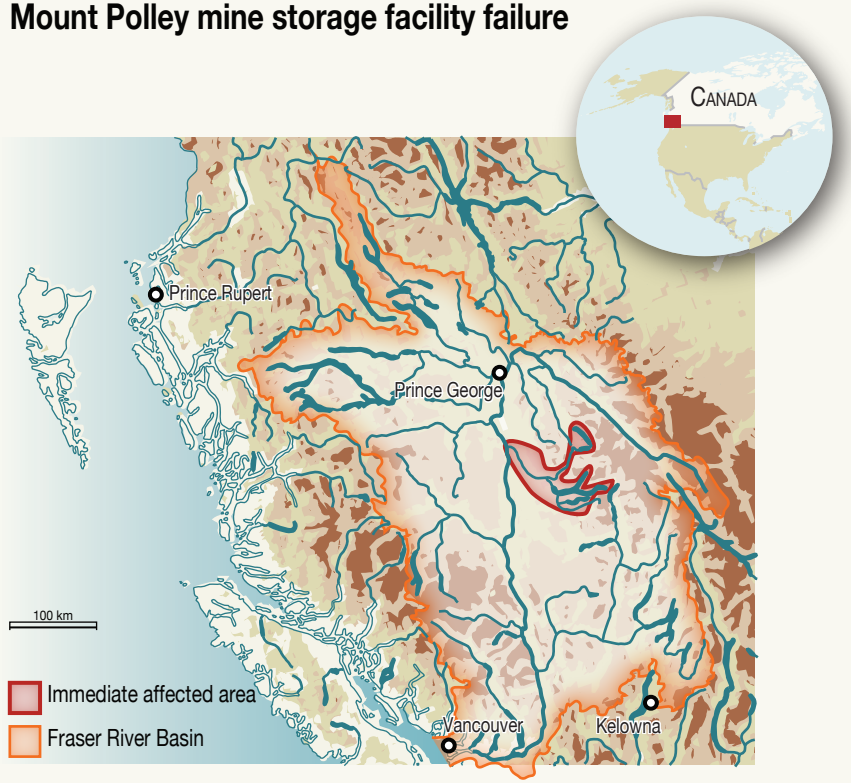
Mount Polley mine storage facility failure

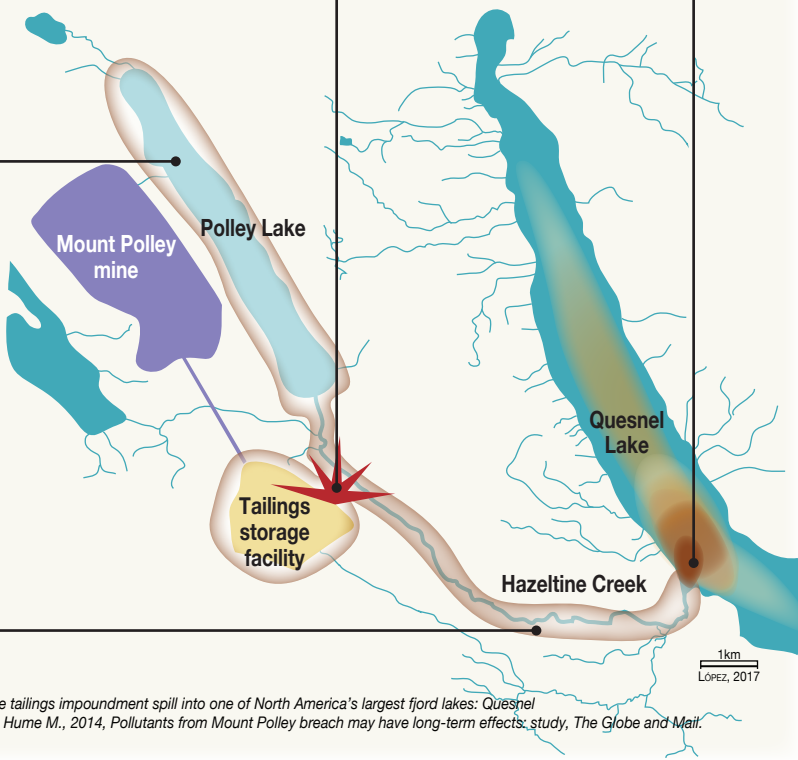


On 4 August 2014, the tailings dam breach sent 25 million m^3 of wastewater and tailings into **Polley Lake**.

An unknown quantity of overburden scoured into the West Basin of **Quesnel Lake**. Cooscillating seiches moved West Basin water both westward and eastward, contaminating the Main Basin.

Debris from the dam breach created an unstable blockage of **Polley Lake.** The company that owned the mine, Imperial Metals, installed a pipe to enable lake drainage to the creek.

The balance of the tailings and water flowed down **Hazeltine Creek**, which was originally 1.2 metres wide, and got up to 150 metres wide.



Sources: *Petticrew E. et al, 2015, The impact of a catastrophic mine tailings impoundment spill into one of North America's largest fjord lakes: Quesnel Lake, British Columbia, Canada, Geophysical Research Letters, 42; Hume M., 2014, Pollutants from Mount Polley breach may have long-term effects: study, The Globe and Mail.*