

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP HELPS COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT CANADA

By Brant Thompson

As a Council of Canadians member you are a part of extensive efforts to stop North American corporations and politicians from pursuing the new Security and Prosperity Partnership, the fight on the international stage to secure the Right to Water, and the growing demand for a Canadian Energy Strategy.

But did you know that in addition to helping our broad national campaigns, your Council membership also works locally? As a Council member you helped people in Whistler B.C., stop the privatization of their municipal water system and the price increases and loss of local control that would have followed. You helped citizens in Digby Neck, Nova Scotia, stop a U.S. corporation from establishing a massive, environmentally devastating quarry that would have ruined their local quality of life. And you helped prevent the bulk export of water from Lake Gisborne in Newfoundland. Right now, you are also helping people in communities across the country protect our public health care from privatization.

It's amazing how your membership donation, combined with those from tens of thousands of like-minded Canadians, helps the Council of Canadians work alongside our chapter members, allies and local citizens to secure important local victories like these.

In short, your membership matters to people across the country who believe, as you do, that our health care system, our rivers and lakes, our energy supply and our environment are vital to Canada's future, and that social justice and the public interest trump corporate profits.

Your membership is even more important when you consider how the work of the Council of Canadians is funded. We are sustained by the generous financial support of everyday Canadians. We do not accept any money from governments or corporations in order to preserve our complete independence in speaking out for the values you believe in.

If your membership matters, imagine what would happen if every one of our members went out and signed up one more member. Have you ever thought of giving a gift membership on a special occasion to someone important in your life who shares your commitment and passion for environmental and social justice? Or encouraging a friend, neighbour or colleague to join? Perhaps you've even thought of increasing your own donation, or joining our monthly Canada Plan so that your membership is automatically renewed each year.

Every new or renewed membership or increased contribution leads to more local victories, stronger communities and a better Canada.

Just ask the people we worked with in Coquitlam, B.C., who stopped a private energy project in the Pinecone Burke Provincial Park that would have caused significant environmental destruction by altering the Upper Pitt River and cutting a huge swath out of the park to run hydro-electric lines!

For more information on giving a gift membership, to request membership brochures to sign up friends or neighbours, or to increase your own donation, please call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177 or email us at inquiries@canadians.org.

Brant Thompson is the Development Officer at the Council of Canadians.



Ann Hains-Clark shows the information she uses in community workshops on water issues.

After being alarmed by the algae blooms in the lakes in her area, and outraged by the rampant misuse of water, Ann Hains-Clark went looking for a way to let the people in her community know about the need to protect our water resources.

Ann became a Council of Canadians member in August of last year. She has since distributed the Council's research material to more than 36 groups in her community of Sherbrooke, Quebec, and has collected more than 100 signatures for the Council's "Save Our Water" petition.

In addition to petition work, Ann leads community workshops on water issues to encourage people to be better water stewards. "This is the only way to restore our focus that water is life – take five minutes, learn about it, then talk about it," she explains.

Ann says she values her Council membership because it helps her stay informed about important issues. She also knows that her membership donation helps the Council carry out its vital work.

"I know I'm part of an organization that makes a difference," she says.

- H  l  ne Bertrand