

Tsal'almec Blue Indigenous Community Resolution

WHEREAS one in six people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS Indigenous communities in Canada have been disproportionately affected by lack of access to clean safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS the 2011 National Engineering Assessment, a study commissioned by the Canadian government on the condition of First Nation water and wastewater systems, found that 73% of water systems were at medium to high risk; and

WHEREAS there are routinely over 100 water advisories in effect, with half of the communities living under advisories for over five years and a number of communities living under advisories for over ten years; and

WHEREAS On July 28, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the human right to water and sanitation; and

WHEREAS On September 23, 2011 the United Nation Human Rights Council (HRC) passed a resolution on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and called on the governments to take concrete action by developing plans of action; establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms that ensure free, effective, meaningful and non discriminatory participation of all peoples and communities; ensuring affordable services for everyone; and providing a framework of accountability with adequate monitoring mechanisms and legal remedies; and

WHEREAS bottled water is routinely used as a band-aid solution to drinking water in many indigenous communities and is not a sustainable or long-term solution; and

WHEREAS the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* creates necessary, high standards for drinking water but was passed without allocating adequate funding or without free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities. These conditions force indigenous communities to turn to funding from private companies under the P3 (Public-Private-partnership) Canada Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Tsal'alh opposes privatization in any form of water and wastewater treatment services, including through P3's, and commits to keep these services community owned, operated and delivered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tsal'alhmec call upon the federal government to allocate \$4.7 billion to water and wastewater infrastructure in indigenous communities, as called for by the National Engineering Assessment, and make adequate funding available without the condition of a P3 agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bottled water will not be sold at any community facilities or community events in Tsal'alh where potable water is available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tsal'alh will forward this resolution to the Assembly of First Nations for circulation to all First Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tsal'alh will call on the Federal and Provincial governments to enshrine water as a human right in federal and provincial law.

BAE IT FURTHER that Tsal'alh will call on the government of Canada to develop a national plan of action to implement the human right to water