



Paula E. Kirman

2012

Annual Report to members



Acting for Social Justice

Informed and committed members have always been the Council's greatest strength. By harnessing the power of our collective voices and the volunteer energy of people, together we are able to bring about meaningful change in communities across Canada.

As a membership-based organization, our campaign efforts are almost entirely supported by generous donations from people like you. Our independence as an organization is maintained by not accepting any money from corporations or governments.

Please join us in reflecting on the positive change you helped make possible in 2012.



Building an informed and engaged citizens' movement

Our organization unites people from coast to coast to take action for a better Canada and a fairer world. With a network of 60 volunteer chapters across Canada, we organize strategic campaigns to protect water, strengthen public health care, and demand trade and climate justice.

There are many people who help in these efforts, including our tireless National Chairperson Maude Barlow, our national Board of Directors, our staff in Ottawa and in our regional offices across Canada, our committed chapter activists who put these campaigns and progressive issues into action, and of course our vibrant membership base whose commitment and generous support make it all possible.

The year 2012 was filled with many campaign highlights and victories. Here are just some of the ways you helped make a difference.

Defending democracy

When reports began to emerge in early 2012 of allegations of widespread voter suppression through targeted “robo-

calls” campaigns in the May 2011 federal election, the Council of Canadians jumped into action. In March 2012, we announced our support for legal applications launched by eight brave Canadians who are seeking to overturn federal election results in their ridings on the basis of election fraud. By December, these historic legal cases were in Federal Court despite several attempts by Conservative Party lawyers to have the case dismissed. Thanks to the generous support of people who have donated, and continue to donate to the Democracy 24/7 Legal Fund, we have raised awareness about rampant election fraud and dirty tricks. We brought new evidence to light and continue to fight for accountability. These historic legal cases are nothing short of a true fight for democratic rights, and we hope you share the pride of being a part of them.

Sinking the Harper agenda

It is clear that Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservative government are systematically eroding, dismantling and endangering key programs and values in this country. Attacks on public services, workers,

unions, immigrants, environmental protections, public health care and other groups and services are fundamentally changing Canada as we know it. Massive omnibus budgets are gutting important environmental legislations and much-needed programs.

In September 2012 we helped build broad support by organizing a civil society summit of more than 50 organizations to find ways to collaborate to challenge and oppose the Harper agenda.

In October, we gathered in Nanaimo, B.C., for an amazingly successful conference and annual meeting under the banner of “Sinking the Harper Agenda.” Hundreds of people joined us for a standing-room-only public forum, panels and workshops, and as we rallied in the streets. While in Nanaimo we also celebrated the launch of the Maude Barlow Social Justice Fund. In commemoration of her 25 years as National Chairperson and her life’s work spent in steadfast defence, promotion and pursuit of social justice, the fund will help provide the Council with long-term stability and effectiveness in fighting for social justice. Visit our website at www.canadians.org/join to find out more about how you can make a donation to the fund.



Protecting water

The Council has always been a leader in fights to protect Canada's water. In 2012 we turned more communities "blue" with our Blue Communities Project. Through this project, we give people the tools they need to encourage their local governments to recognize water as a human right, promote publicly financed water and wastewater facilities, and ban the purchase and sale of bottled water in public facilities. In 2012 we celebrated the addition of eight new blue communities.

We continued to push the federal government to drop "Schedule 2," a legal loophole in the Fisheries Act that allows mining companies to permanently destroy freshwater lakes and rivers with their toxic waste. We joined with the Tsilhqot'in First Nation in their fight to stop the Prosperity Mine near Williams Lake and celebrated a federal decision to reject Taseko Mine's plans to drain Teztan Biny (Fish Lake). The celebration was short-lived, however, as the mining company submitted new plans later in the year. We also continued our commitment as part of the Sandy Pond Alliance in Newfoundland to challenge the legality of Schedule 2 in Federal Court.

To help forge links and build relationships in communities surrounding the Great



Lakes, we launched the eight-city "Great Lakes Need Great Friends" tour in May to educate, raise awareness and encourage action for these vital waters. With a patchwork of limited government protection that is hampered by inadequate funding and differing political priorities, the Great Lakes urgently need people to join together to forge a new future for them to ensure the lakes will thrive for generations to come. We look forward to the second leg of the tour this spring. Visit www.canadians.org/greatlakes for all the details.

In a local fight to protect groundwater, we celebrated the withdrawal of plans for a mega quarry in Melancthon, Ontario. Thousands of Council of Canadians members added their voices to the groundswell of community support against the mega quarry by signing petitions, writing letters and contacting local politicians.

The Council's Blue Planet Project plays a key role in the global water justice movement. Through it, we fought for water justice internationally and continued our work with allies from around the world to inform, motivate and inspire people and governments to implement the United Nation's declaration of water as a human right. We put a spotlight on the Canadian government's shameful record on the right to

water, particularly as it relates to mining and the commodification of water abroad. We lobbied for action here in Canada where many communities, including First Nations, do not have access to the clean water resources they need to live. In June 2012, we "Shouted Out Against Mining Injustice" and brought together activists who are working to stop water and human rights abuses by Canadian mining companies here in Canada and abroad for a two-day international conference in Vancouver, B.C.

Demanding energy and climate justice

With growing concern about the grim realities of climate change and diminishing energy resources globally, we are supporting communities fighting energy projects that will destroy their land, water and air, and are pushing the Canadian government for strong policies that protect our environment and focus on renewable and sustainable energy solutions.

In 2012, we rallied to halt the environmentally destructive tar sands and fossil fuel pipelines. The fossil fuel industry, such as tar sands in Alberta and fracking operations across Canada, continue to fuel our economy at the expense of poisoning water, polluting air and harming communities. Working



with affected communities, we helped raise awareness about the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline, the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion and the Pacific Trail pipeline – massive projects that will have devastating social and environmental impacts. In October 2012, we organized a six-city “No Pipelines, No Tankers!” tour in communities along the pipelines’ routes, helping to connect and mobilize people against these massive projects. This past February we were at the Forward On Climate rally in Washington, D.C., adding a much-needed Canadian voice to the crowd of 50,000 people who were calling on President Obama to stop the KXL pipeline, which, if approved, will send tar sands crude from Alberta to the United States for refining.

We worked with communities across the country to say “No Fracking Way!” Fracking is an extraction process that uses massive amounts of water, chemicals and sand to get at trapped underground gas reserves. We are raising awareness about the impacts of fracking, which include contaminated groundwater and drinking water, health concerns, pollution and more. In February we launched the “fracker tracker,” a Web-based tool that tracks fracking projects across Canada. Later in the

year, we delivered pails of toxic fracking fluid (which were really buckets filled with thousands of your signed petitions) to Environment Minister Peter Kent on Parliament Hill.

Pushing for fair trade

The Council of Canadians has a strong history of speaking out against trade deals that hurt people, the environment and social policies. We are fighting for trade agreements that put people’s rights ahead of corporate profits. In 2012, our focus remained on the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). We raised awareness about the deal here in Canada and overseas. We encouraged people to get involved locally, and gave them the tools they need to help pass municipal resolutions against CETA in their communities. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members and chapters, more than 40 resolutions have been passed in communities across Canada.

We continued to speak out against corporate globalization, which puts power in the hands of big businesses. Global markets, big banks, food and commodity speculation, and irresponsible governments have plunged our world into economic, environmental

and social crises that are widening the gap between rich and poor. We are part of a global movement bringing together trade activists from the Global South and Global North with the common goal of social and economic justice for all.

Strengthening public health care

We lobbied for a strengthened and expanded public health care system in Canada in the 2014 Health Care Accord, a deal between the federal government and provincial and territorial governments that will set the course for medicare for the next 10 years. We are pushing for a deal that strengthens and expands medicare to include a national pharmacare program and better long-term care, home care and mental health care so people have access to the services they need. In 2012 we were in Victoria, B.C. and Halifax, Nova Scotia, speaking to the media and turning up the political heat on premiers who were meeting to negotiate the new accord. With the generous help of our donors we placed a quarter-page ad asking: “Where’s Harper?” The Prime Minister and the federal government have been conspicuously absent from negotiations. In

December, as part of national lobby actions, we met with MPs and decision makers and reminded them that health care remains Canadians' top priority. We will continue to push politicians for a stronger public health care system and a better deal between the federal government and the provinces in the 2014 Health Care Accord.

Thank you to our donors

Our work is made possible by the generosity of like-minded people who believe social, economic and environmental justice is in everyone's best interest. With your membership and donations, we made great strides in our campaigns in 2012. We garnered hundreds of media hits; organized major events in communities across Canada

and around the world; held conferences and speaking tours; produced educational factsheets, brochures and hard-hitting reports; provided daily-updated news on our website at www.canadians.org and delivered informative articles in our membership magazine, *Canadian Perspectives*.

These remarkable achievements are made possible by our members' financial contributions. Close to \$4.5 million was received from memberships and contributions this fiscal year, which represents 92 per cent of total revenue. We have provided a Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenditure below that shows our sources of revenue and how we spent this funding.

Your donations make a difference

We extend a most heartfelt thank you to all of our donors for supporting our work!

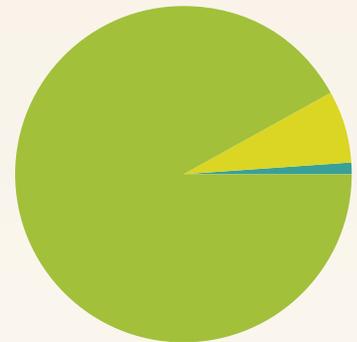
The Council of Canadians would like to extend a special thank you to members of our Citizens' Agenda Fund (CAF) whose leadership-level contributions have played a crucial role in our achievements in 2012. Please visit our website at www.canadians.org/CAF to see a list of our CAF members.

The Council of Canadians: Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenditure For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

Income		June 30, 2012	June 30, 2011
Memberships and supporters	92%	\$4,495,125	\$4,410,996
Foundations	7%	317,613	217,099
Interest and other	1%	48,931	46,968
Total Income	100%	4,861,669	4,675,063
Expenses			
Regional offices and chapter funding	12%	645,919	688,033
Communications	7%	356,279	345,409
Political campaigns	27%	1,447,234	829,876
Development	30%	1,607,188	1,888,105
Meetings, conferences, newsletters	4%	196,878	162,834
Admin, Executive and program support	20%	1,072,573	1,095,289
Total Expenses	100%	5,326,071	5,009,546
Bequest		479,189	40,562
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year		14,787	(293,921)
Transferred to Maude Barlow's SJF		(202,000)	0
Adjusted surplus / (deficit) for the year		(\$187,213)	(\$293,921)

NOTE: The increase in political campaign expenses is caused by expenses related to the election fraud legal cases, the mining conference and Blue Planet Project work on the World Water Forum in France. Some of these expenses were offset by foundation grants and significant donations from supporters.

REVENUE SOURCES 2011-2012



EXPENDITURES 2011-2012

