Since 1985, the Council of Canadians has been a home for people who believe a better Canada is not only possible, but necessary. The Council’s work has always been built on a strong foundation of timely and strategic campaigns for the values, social programs and progressive policies we all believe in – and it has been built with the grassroots support and action of people like you.

The Council’s work is funded almost entirely by your generous donations. Our independence as an organization is maintained by not accepting any money from corporations or governments. This independence allows us to speak out clearly and freely with a powerful, collective voice.

**TAKING ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

With a network of more than 50 volunteer chapters across Canada, in 2019 the Council of Canadians brought people together in communities across the country to protect water, build democracy, strengthen public health care, and demand climate justice. We stood up to the power of corporations. We worked in solidarity for Indigenous rights and pushed our governments to bridge the gaps caused by society’s inequalities.

There are many people who helped in these efforts in 2019, including our (former) Honorary Chairperson Maude Barlow, our national Board of Directors, our staff in Ottawa, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver, our chapter activists who put our campaigns and progressive issues into action, and of course, you, our committed members, donors and supporters, who make it all possible.

Here are just some of the positive changes you made possible in 2019:

**YOU TURNED COMMUNITIES “BLUE”**

The Council of Canadians’ Blue Communities Project gives people the tools they need to protect water at the local level. Thanks to your generous support, many more cities and communities turned “blue” in 2019, including Montreal, Los Angeles, Brussels and numerous cities and towns across Canada. They did so by supporting the human right to water, affirming their commitment to provide public water and wastewater services, and banning the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities. Your support got materials into the hands of people in communities across Canada and around the world who raised awareness about the need for water to stay in public hands. It also got youth involved – students in Quebec and Ottawa began their journeys to become “Blue Schools” through this initiative. All of this incredible work was then put in the spotlight as Maude Barlow launched her book, Whose Water is it, Anyway?, in communities across the country.

**YOU PROTECTED WATER AND SAID “NO” TO NESTLÉ**

You challenged the privatization of the Commons – resources like water that belong to all and shouldn’t be
sold for profit. In both B.C. and Ontario, Nestlé has water-taking permits (some of which are now expired). Nestlé continues to draw from community drinking water sources for their outrageous bottled water business. You petitioned both provincial governments to stop this for-profit water grab that drains community water sources and leaves a terrible legacy of plastic waste. You joined with more than 90,000 people who have taken the Boycott Nestlé pledge and pressured governments to stop giving away our water to this multinational water corporation.

**YOU MADE CUSMA – THE NEW NAFTA – BETTER FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET**

When U.S. President Donald Trump tried to strongarm Canada into revising the North American Free Trade Agreement in the U.S.’s favour, you made sure people across the country had crucial and up-to-date information about the deal and its impacts. Tens of thousands of Council of Canadians supporters lobbied their MP for significant changes in the agreement through petitions, phone calls and letters. As a result, dangerous provisions that allowed corporations to sue our government for policies and regulations that infringed on their investments – even if they were enacted to protect people’s health or the environment – were dropped. You ensured the removal of NAFTA’s energy proportionality rules that required Canada to send a fixed amount of energy south of our border to the U.S. You raised important questions about new market rules that will allow U.S. milk from cattle injected with genetically engineered bovine growth hormone into Canada even though the substance has been banned for use in Canada. Your generous support also allowed us to work with trade and health coalitions and Canadian MPs to challenge rules that would extend patent provisions on biologic drugs, keeping their prices higher for longer. This coalition work helped U.S. Democrats remove these harmful provisions from the agreement.

**YOU OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT’S “BILLION DOLLAR BUYOUT”**

On June 18, 2019, less than 24 hours after declaring a climate emergency, the Canadian government approved the climate-killing Trans Mountain pipeline. When Kinder Morgan wavered on building it, the Trudeau government used taxpayer dollars to buy it. Through all of this, Council of Canadians supporters have been on the frontlines of the fight to stop this pipeline. You organized rallies and protests outside of MPs offices, you delivered copies of the Council of Canadians’ hard-hitting research report *Billion Dollar Buyout: How Canadian taxpayers bought a climate-killing pipeline and Trump’s trade deal supports it*, and you kept a spotlight on the urgent need to transition to a low carbon future.

**YOU SAID OFFSHORE DRILLING IS NOT WITH THE RISK**

Despite the well-documented need to rapidly move toward a renewable energy future, provincial and federal governments are continuing to support exploration for offshore oil and gas in Nova Scotian waters. Council of Canadians’ Atlantic chapters are leading the efforts to protect coastal waters and stop this risky extraction process. Council chapters held rallies, information meetings, and helped increase the political pressure for a full public inquiry on the risks of offshore drilling. You amplified their efforts through letters and a petition that has garnered more than 60,000 signatures to date, saying offshore drilling is not worth the risk.

**YOU BUILT GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR A GREEN NEW DEAL IN CANADA**

We are living in a global climate crisis. Scientists have given us under a decade to cut our emissions in half in order to avoid catastrophic impacts and the crisis moving beyond our control. To do that, we must see “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.” You are part of a global movement for a Green New Deal that provides a just transition, led by the federal government, to slash emissions, meet the demands of the multiple crises we face, respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and create over 1 million jobs in the process. It is a proposal that is gaining in popularity among people and groups from all walks of life, especially young people who know their futures are at stake. You took part in cross-country townhalls, wrote letters of support, and helped build momentum for a Green New Deal from the grassroots up. Now, more than ever, it is essential to build a new economy that places power in the hands of people, not corporations, and protects the environment so we all have a livable future.

**YOU MADE THE CASE FOR PHARMACARE**

Before COVID-19 hit, one in four Canadians could not afford their medications. With the high number of job losses, this number is expected grow. Throughout the Council’s history, you have been part of the ongoing efforts to make a national pharmacare program part of
Canada's medicare system, giving everyone access to the medications they need without the barrier of cost. Council of Canadians' chapters across the country are fighting for strengthened public health care in their communities. With your support, we enhanced their efforts by delivering hard-hitting reports, lobbying MPs and educating the public on how pharmacare would not only give people access to needed prescription drugs, it would save all of us a lot of money through the bulk purchase of medications. Together, we will make pharmacare a reality.

YOU STOOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
The Council of Canadians works in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. You amplified calls to respect Indigenous rights under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. You attended rallies against the Coastal GasLink pipeline project and the Trans Mountain pipeline which threaten Indigenous People's right to free, prior and informed consent. You supported efforts of grassroots Mi'kmaq water protectors to stop the Alton Gas natural gas storage project in Nova Scotia which threatens the Shubenacadie River. You supported the calls of Grassy Narrows First Nation in their fight for remedial action and funding for the health challenges in their community caused by mercury poisoning. You joined with Indigenous Peoples in their call for true reconciliation.

YOU FOUGHT TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE
Our world is warming too fast and scientists are clear that we need to change direction to stop irreversible damage to our planet by climate change. Thanks to you, we took many actions throughout the year to educate, raise awareness, and put pressure on politicians to act. Our chapters and activists joined with youth to take to the streets for Fridays for Future rallies, amplifying youths' calls to governments for urgent action in the growing face of climate change.

Your donations allowed us to support a legal challenge against Saskatchewan's case against the federal carbon pricing plan, arguing that it must be upheld as constitutional. While Trudeau's carbon pricing policy, and wider climate plan, fall well below what is needed, we intervened because we believe governments at all levels need to coordinate to pursue ambitious and equitable climate policy. A ruling that allows a provincial government to opt out of a federal climate plan would set a legal precedent we cannot afford. You helped us say “Reject Teck” and your support allowed us to speak as an intervenor in hearings on what would have been the largest tar sands mine to date. Your support made a difference – Teck Resources abandoned its plans for the mine in early 2020.

THANK YOU
With your support, the Council of Canadians garnered hundreds of media hits, organized major events in communities across Canada and around the world, held conferences and speaking tours, produced educational materials and reports, provided daily updates on our website at canadians.org and on social media, and delivered informative articles in Canadian Perspectives.

These remarkable achievements are made possible by your financial contributions. More than $3.6 million was received from supporter donations this fiscal year, which represents 95 per cent of total revenue. Please see the Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenses which shows our sources of revenue and how we spent this funding.

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

THE CITIZEN’S AGENDA FUND
The Council of Canadians would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who donated to our Citizens’ Agenda Fund (CAF). These leadership-level contributions made it possible to achieve many campaign victories in 2019.