



Council of Canadians chapter members from across B.C., staff and Board members met recently to share stories of campaigns and actions in their communities and to help plan the Council's future work.

## Chapter Action Updates

**Council of Canadians chapters help put campaigns and social and economic justice issues in the spotlight in communities across the country. Chapter activists continue to be busy protecting water and public health care, challenging unfair trade deals, calling for urgent and immediate action on climate change, and to standing up for democracy. Here are just a few examples of their recent actions:**

### **Vancouver chapter shows support for public health care**

Members of the Council of Canadians Vancouver chapter brought signs of support and their voices to a recent press conference hosted by the British Columbia Health Coalition in response to the final arguments in Dr. Brian Day's constitutional case against medicare. Dr. Day, owner of two private, for profit clinics, is arguing in court that B.C.'s ban on private clinics is unconstitutional. If successful, Dr. Day's case could fundamentally change Canada's public medicare program, allowing a private health care system that people with money could pay for. Studies have shown that parallel public-private systems worsen wait times because it removes doctors and other health care professionals from the public system.

### **Northwest Territories Chapter pushes to follow B.C.'s example**

In late October, British Columbia became the first province to table legislation to

implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into law. For years, the Northwest Territories Chapter also lobbied their government to do the same. A few days after B.C.'s announcement, the same language was included in the list of priorities for a newly elected territorial government.

UNDRIP was recognized in 2007, but still has no official force in Canadian law. Council of Canadians chapters across the country are acting in solidarity with Indigenous peoples to have these basic rights and Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination recognized.

### **Celebrating a long-time Montreal activist**

The Council of Canadians extends deep appreciation to Abdul Pirani who has stepped down after more than a decade of taking action with the Montreal Chapter and serving eight years as a member of the Council of Canadians' Board of Directors. Abdul has been a central figure in Montreal's vibrant activist community and the Council is grateful for all his energy and efforts.

### **Climate strikes in Atlantic**

Atlantic chapters continue to support youth-led climate strikes including during the Climate Strike Week in late September. In addition, the St. John's and Fredericton chapters have been pushing for their cities to declare a climate emergency. Fredericton hosted

a Green New Deal event to a packed room, commented on a draft municipal plan using a climate lens, and staged a die-in at the local Farmers' market in the days leading up to the federal election. Council of Canadians chapters across the country have been joining youth in the streets to demand urgent action from governments on the climate crisis.

### **Water Not Gold events in Nova Scotia**

The North Shore chapter has been working with SuNNS (Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia) and other allies to raise awareness about the extraction industry overall, but also on a specific proposal for a gold mine in their area. Earlier in October and during a pro-industry conference, chapter members organized a series of events including book launches in both Tatamagouche and Halifax for Joan Kuyek's new book, *Unearthing Justice: How to protect your community from the mining industry*, which in part addresses the colonial roots of the mining industry as well as ongoing environmental racism across Canada. Chapter members also participated in a rally outside the mining conference.

If you are interested in joining a Council of Canadians chapter near you, call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177, or visit our website at [canadians.org/chapters](http://canadians.org/chapters). We can also help you start a chapter if there isn't one in your community.