

Members of the Council of Canadians' Fredericton chapter shared "Go Vote" information with people during the city's annual Labour Day picnic. Council chapters have been very active in communities across Canada encouraging people to cast their ballot on October 19.



# Chapter Action Updates

by Philippe-A Charbonneau

**Council of Canadians chapters are active in communities across Canada protecting water and public health care, challenging unfair trade deals, calling for "system change not climate change," and standing up for democracy. Here are a few examples of their work in recent months.**

## Protecting drinking water

Many chapters are defending drinking water. In June, the Victoria chapter participated in a blockade of the entrance to a South Island Aggregates site at Shawnigan Lake. Chapter members want to stop a company from dumping contaminated soil at the gravel pit there because it would put the drinking water for 12,000 people at risk. Shawnigan Lake is located about 48 kilometres north of Victoria in the Cowichan Valley Regional District. The Sudbury chapter spoke out against the building of the Keast Drive subdivision near Ramsey Lake in the city's downtown area. The proposed subdivision would mean the construction of 54 single-family homes and 93 condominiums near the lake. Due to smelter emissions from mining in the area, the lake was considered dead for many years. In the 1970s a major environmental project was launched to clean up the lake and reintroduce aquatic life.

## Jobs, justice and the climate

Nineteen Council of Canadians chapters marched for jobs, justice and the climate in early July. The Vancouver, Delta-Richmond, Kelowna, Nelson, Nanaimo, Edmonton, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Peterborough-Kawarthas, Montreal, Fredericton and St. John's chapters all participated

in the national day of action. On July 5, there was a march in Toronto to coincide with a Climate Summit of the Americas and a Pan-American Economic Summit. The Toronto, York University, Hamilton, London, Niagara South, Guelph and Peterborough-Kawarthas chapters were present at that march. Chapters joined the call for an economy that is more fair and equal and provides good green jobs and a better future for people and the planet.

## Marching for health care in Ontario

The London, Hamilton and South Niagara chapters all participated in regional days of action to call attention to health care cuts and privatization. They joined with the Ontario Health Coalition to send a message to all provincial political parties that our health is not for sale and that access to quality health care in their community is a right, not a privilege.

## Community in New Brunswick seeing red

Several chapters joined the Red Head Anthony's Cove Preservation Association's protest against the proposed Energy East pipeline. Red Head is a community in Saint John, New Brunswick, adjacent to the Bay of Fundy. The community does not want a massive oil storage "tank farm" built for 7.8 million barrels of bitumen across the street from their homes. They also do not want a new deepwater marine terminal capable of loading about 115 supertankers a year in the Bay of Fundy.

## Encouraging people to "Go Vote!"

Council chapters across the country have been holding events, canvassing door-to-

door, and organizing all-candidates meetings to encourage people to "Go Vote!" on October 19. More than 9 million people did not vote in the last federal election. Council of Canadians chapters have been actively trying to change that by sharing Voter's Guides and information about how to register to vote.

*Interested in getting involved? Join a Council chapter near you! Find a full list of chapters at [www.canadians.org/chapters](http://www.canadians.org/chapters), or call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177 for more information.*



## In memoriam

Members of the Inverness County chapter are saddened to lose David Martin, who passed away in August at the age of 73. David's work to secure a municipal ban on fracking in Inverness County, Nova Scotia, was a poignant reminder that the most effective grassroots activism is work of gentle determination and respectful engagement. The Council of Canadians extends condolences to David's partner, Johanna Padelt, his children, family, friends and fellow chapter activists.