



## On the Road with Maude Barlow

Dear friends,

I hope this report finds you well. It's packed with inspiring stories and timely analysis on the real and substantive progress you are driving in communities across Canada and beyond.

There's no better example of this than the recent announcement that Trans-Canada is pulling the plug on its proposed Energy East pipeline. For four long years the Council worked tirelessly to expose the serious flaws in this broken pipeline plan. We stood side-by-side with communities along the pipeline route from Hardisty, Alberta to Red Head, New Brunswick, opposing what would have been the biggest oil pipeline in North America. We raised awareness about the danger Energy East posed to thousands of waterways it would have crossed, threatening them with spills of the dirtiest energy on the planet.

As well, Prime Minister Trudeau has finally relented on his refusal to discuss a national pharmacare plan and has instructed his health minister to work with the provinces and territories to negotiate common drug prices, with an eye to a "national formulary." Clearly his government is bending to pressure from Canadians – the vast majority of whom want a national drug plan – and is taking the first steps toward one.

On trade, there have been a number of positive signs. While most of CETA – the trade deal with Europe – is now in place,



our movement succeeded in forcing the European Parliament to hold back on the investor-state provision that allows foreign investors to sue governments, making it go through every national Parliament in Europe.

As well, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland is working with labour and other allies to try to insert workers', women's, Indigenous and environmental rights into a revised NAFTA. We have been clear that adding these rights without profoundly altering many other aspects of NAFTA will not make the deal palatable.

The Council of Canadians has been at the forefront of these and other important campaigns. We are working hard to get the Trudeau government to fulfill its promise to re-instate the water laws gutted by the Harper government. The Kinder Morgan pipeline – another tar sands pipeline – is just as important as Energy East and we are fully engaged in that struggle. We continue to push the government on its promises of electoral reform. And we know that a whole host of bad trade agreements – from the revived Trans-Pacific Partnership and the dangerous Trade in Services Agreement, to a deal with China – are all coming at us. With your help, we will not give up any of these fights.

Personally, I am very busy for someone trying to slow down! I had the honour of being the keynote speaker at a number of labour conventions over the summer, including for the Public Service Alliance of Canada and Unifor. I continue to speak at events across the country and outside. One particular moving gathering took place in Flint, Michigan, where people have been poisoned by lead in their drinking water. I also presented to a rights of nature tribunal at the Bonn climate summit to a huge and appreciative audience.

My big fall project was writing a new report, *Getting it Right: A peoples' guide to renegotiating NAFTA*. Please read and share it! (You can read an excerpt of it on page 4. The full report is available online at [canadians.org/NAFTA](http://canadians.org/NAFTA), or call us at 1-800-387-7177 and we will mail you a copy!).

As always, I thank you all and value you so much. You are the reason there is hope for a better Canada and fairer world.

Maude Barlow, Honorary Chairperson, The Council of Canadians