



Council of Canadians National Chairperson Maude Barlow took to the streets in Stuttgart, Germany in September with more than 30,000 people to say “no” to trade deals like the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

On the Road with **Maude Barlow**

Dear friends,

I hope you all had a long and restorative summer. As always, your Council of Canadians team across the country is hard at work fighting for social and environmental justice here in Canada and around the world.

My plate is full this fall. I am back in Europe fighting the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) – in Germany, Denmark and Sweden this time – and the stakes have never been higher. The Trudeau government is aggressively promoting a swift ratification of CETA before Great Britain leaves the European Union. But opposition to this mega-corporate deal is fierce in Europe and all the national governments are walking on eggshells trying to decide the best next steps. We have a real chance of defeating CETA.

I am also promoting Blue Communities in Europe – in Bavaria, Germany, and in Geneva, Switzerland, before the World Council of Churches. More and more municipalities, unions, universities and faith-based organizations are taking the pledge to protect water as a human right and public trust. I am very excited about the forward movement on this project.

At home we are fighting for a national pharmacare program and a new health accord between the federal and provincial

governments to restore secured funding for health care. We followed the National Energy Board as it heard from Canadians about their concerns with the Energy East pipeline and the fact that it would endanger nearly 3,000 waterways. We are organizing to impact the government’s “consultations” on the water legislation which Harper gutted and Trudeau promised to reinstate. Big industry has weighed in on the subject, not wanting a return to strict laws, so we have our work cut out for us.

In collaboration with the Canadian Labour Congress, I am touring across Canada to fight the terrible Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This massive deal would put dairy farmers at risk, lower our food safety standards, increase the cost of prescription drugs, make it harder to fight climate change, reduce the ability of local governments to implement local economic development programs, put Canadian workers at risk, put thousands in the automotive sector out of work, increase income inequality, and give thousands more corporations the right to sue Canada under the deal’s investor-state provisions. This is a pernicious trade agreement that must never see the light of day!

Then, of course, there is my new book, *Boiling Point: Government Neglect, Corporate Abuse and Canada’s Water Crisis*. It tells the story of how generations of Canadians have taken water for granted and

dumped whatever we wanted into it, moved it from watersheds where nature needs it to where we wanted it, exploited our groundwater (which we have not properly mapped), and, in our assumption that it was unlimited, over-extracted it for commodity exports, energy production and mining.

The book contains a chapter on the shocking state of water injustice in First Nations communities in Canada and what needs to be done to rectify this situation. It tells the story of trade – from the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA to CETA and the TPP – and the danger posed by these deals to water protection here in Canada and around the world. *Boiling Point* tells many stories of the courage and tenacity of local communities fighting to protect their water and their rights and lays out a blueprint for the future. An excerpt is included in this issue of *Canadian Perspectives* – give it a read!

As always, I am deeply grateful for your support and commitment to the Council of Canadians and its values. We could not do this important work without you.

With hope and resolve,

Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians.