Contents

3  Letters to the Editor
4  On the Road with Maude Barlow
5-6  Creating a New, Healthy Economy for People and the Planet
7-9  Avi Lewis: Why We Should All Leap
10  Saskatchewan Oil Spill Shows Need for Better Regulation, Move Away from Oil
11-12  The Human Experience of the Husky Oil Spill
13-14  Energy East: A battle to imagine a better collective future
15  Chapter Activist Profile: Charlene Morton, South Shore, Nova Scotia
16  Chapter Action Updates
17  A Prescription for Better Medicine
18-19  Boiling Point: Government neglect, corporate abuse and Canada’s water crisis
20-21  5 Things You Should Know About Water Protection: Why we must protect every lake, every river
22  Take action! Send a message in a bottle to your Member of Parliament
23  Building the People’s Climate Plan
24  Canada Hasn’t Learned Its Lessons on “Free Trade”
25  Dr. Profit’s Trial Against Medicare
26  Mel Hurtig’s Passion for Justice Still Guides Us
27  Chapter Contacts

The Council of Canadians believes that political literacy is crucial to regaining control of our communities and our country. We encourage you to copy articles from Canadian Perspectives – most conveniently fit on one or two pages. If you would like to reprint articles, or if you would like to distribute Canadian Perspectives in your community, please contact us at 1-800-387-7177.

Past issues of Canadian Perspectives are available at www.canadians.org. ISSN 1188-6897
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40065620

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Canadian Perspectives, The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1X3
Email: inquiries@canadians.org Tel: 1-800-387-7177

The Council of Canadians believes that political literacy is crucial to regaining control of our communities and our country. We encourage you to copy articles from Canadian Perspectives – most conveniently fit on one or two pages. If you would like to reprint articles, or if you would like to distribute Canadian Perspectives in your community, please contact us at 1-800-387-7177.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS Maude Barlow, Leticia Adair, Pam Beattie, Roy Brady, Leo Broderick, John Cartwright, Robert Chernomas, Alice de Wolff, Lois Frank, Andrea Furlong, Lorraine Hewlett, Garry John, Ken Kavanagh, Tracey Mitchell, Moira Peters, Abdul Pirani, Rick Sawa, Steven Shrybman, Heather Smith, Fred Wilson

ADVISORY BOARD Duncan Cameron, John Gray, Eric Peterson, Mel Watkins, Lois Wilson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Garry Neil

STAFF Meena Agarwal, Mohamed Amano, Dave Bergeron, Elizabeth Berman, Hélène Bertrand, Michael Butler, Mark Caizavara, Daniella Carpio, Dana Chapieskie, Philippe Charbonneau, Kathie Cloutier, Diane Connors, Briette DePape, Mark D’ArCY, Roger Desjardins, Sujata Dey, Angela Giles, Harjap Grewal, Andrea Harden-Dohoue, Karen Jordon, Meera Karunananthan, AJ Klein, Jamian Logue, Emma Lui, Jan Malek, Jeannette Muhongayire, Brent Patterson, Dylan Penner, Matthew Ramsden, Rachel Small, Carl Stewart, Robin Tress, Pamela Woolridge
The signs of change

The world, including Newfoundland and Labrador, is currently witnessing the slow painful death of the industrial revolution. Energy UK, the biggest energy lobbying group, has changed its position on green energy and will start campaigning for low-carbon alternatives. Its members realize that their future is in the new forms of energy rather than the old.

Countries like Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Costa Rica and Brazil are giving evidence that a system change is occurring. The world is changing trajectory on the energy sector. Interestingly enough, at the same time, every country needs to acknowledge that all people, especially future generations, have the right to live in a healthy environment. This is translated into a call to include the right to live in a healthy environment in our Canadian Constitution.

The renewable energy revolution is occurring faster than anyone predicted. It is believed that, with a mixture of good will, leadership and common vision, Canada has the potential to meet 100 per cent of its energy needs through wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and tidal wave, etc.

We owe it to the next generations to think and act differently.

Raymond Cusson
Shoal Brook (Gros Morne), Newfoundland and Labrador

Why can’t Obama see the TPP is bad?

I read with great interest my Spring 2016 issue of Canadian Perspectives. It was nice to see an issue dedicated to the TPP, and also to the other big issue of concern, climate change. Yes, the devil is in the details. Great cover art, Greg Perry.

Sujata Dey’s article (The Trans-Pacific Partnership Erodes Public Policy to Benefit World’s Rich and Powerful) clearly pointed out that President Obama’s words do not match his actions. If he truly cared about what is best for the people of his nation, he would not be promoting a trade deal that is bad for the people but good for the multinational corporations.

So many experts can see the harm that these trade deals do to a country’s sovereignty, how they chill a government and make it reluctant to do what is necessary to mitigate climate change for fear of being sued. Why can’t the President of the United States see that too?

When I try to talk to people about this, they often say, “Why are Obama and Trudeau in favour of these trade deals if they are so bad?” I am still looking for the answer to this.

If making yourself look good as a politician is the main reason for signing a trade deal, then we need to make the government see that it would look stupid if it were to sign such a flawed trade deal. In other words, we need to make the government look competent and globally engaged by doing what is best for their nation and setting the right example for other nations to follow. That means refusing to ratify these one-sided, corporation-friendly trade deals unless ISDS clauses are removed. It means putting people first, not corporations.

Frances Anne Cote
Iroquois Falls, Ontario

A new voting system

(Re. a letter by N. Hart in the Spring 2016 issue.) Mr. Hart’s letter proposed a proportional representation voting system based on Johnson’s Direct Party and Representative Voting (DPR). Unfortunately, that particular system would require a change in Canada’s Constitution, which would take too long.

Our current Constitution requires that each province is allotted a certain number of MPs, which wouldn’t work with DPR. Nevertheless, other proportional representation voting systems, such as mixed member proportional, do not require a change in our Constitution.

Boyd Reimer
Toronto, Ontario

A gift for water

Thirty children and 12 teens recently worked together to raise money at our United Church Vacation Bible School. The theme was “water.” We created a “water wishing well” and researched a place in the world or in our country where there were water issues.

The greatest awareness raised was around First Nation communities – specifically that so many of these communities are on boil water advisories – some for as long as 25 years. We learned that water is a natural resource that is essential for life and therefore should not be commodified and sold.

We decided to donate these funds – with our gratitude – to the Council of Canadians as a sign of support for all the work you do to advocate for our greatest resource.

Reverend Christina Paradela, Reverend Miriam Spies and Reverend Alison Mock
Dundas, Ontario

Send us your letters!

If you have something to say about an article you have read in Canadian Perspectives, or an issue you think would interest our readers, please write to us. We reserve the right to edit your letter for clarity and length. Letters must include your full name, address and phone number.

Send your letter to: Canadian Perspectives
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1X3
Email: inquiries@canadians.org
Attention: Editor, Canadian Perspectives
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.
Creating a New, Healthy Economy for People and the Planet

The Council of Canadians calls for a healthy economy, one that meets the needs of people and the planet, rather than the 1 per cent.

Our organization was formed in the fight against so-called “free trade,” which has cost us many good jobs. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed, we have seen the loss of well over half a million manufacturing jobs in Canada, the net loss of 1 million jobs in the United States, and the displacement of millions of Mexican farmers. Employment trends show a growth in part-time, precarious jobs, with the quality of employment in Canada now at a 25-year low. This means there is less job security and fewer benefits for more and more people. We oppose the “next generation” of trade agreements – the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership – and support a comprehensive strategy that would give precarious workers greater access to social support mechanisms and basic labour standards.

The Council of Canadians has always been a strong supporter of the public ownership of public services. We
argue that public services, like water and wastewater infrastructure and even airports, should not be privatized to be run by for-profit corporations. We have also made the case against the Trudeau government’s support of “asset recycling,” whereby major public assets would be made available to public pension investors (and likely others) as a way to fund new public (but not necessarily publicly owned) infrastructure. We believe that public services are most efficiently operated on a publicly owned and democratically accountable basis.

More recently, we have endorsed the Leap Manifesto, which includes a vision for a healthy economy. Among its demands, the manifesto highlights the need for a 100 per cent clean economy by 2050, public support for clean energy projects developed by Indigenous peoples and other frontline communities, a universal program to build and retrofit energy-efficient housing, a more localized and ecologically based agricultural system, immigration status and full protection for all workers, the expansion of low-carbon sectors including caregiving, teaching, social work, the arts and public-interest media, higher income taxes for corporations and wealthy people, and an end to fossil fuel subsidies.

On the climate front, we back the call by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) for the creation of one million climate jobs. Those jobs could be created through investments in clean renewable energy, green buildings, public transit and high-speed rail transport. We have made the point that the average renewable energy investment creates four times as many jobs as the same investment in the fossil fuel economy.

That same argument has also been made in other areas of social policy. Author and journalist Rutger Bregman has written, “Think about it: every [dollar] invested in a homeless person returns triple or more in savings on care, police and court costs. Just imagine what the eradication of child poverty might achieve. Solving these kinds of problems is a whole lot more efficient than ‘managing’ them.” More broadly, Statistics Canada has reported that if 80 per cent of Canadians were as healthy as the top 20 per cent of income earners in Canada, there would be 40,000 fewer deaths per year. But instead of moving towards greater equality in this country, the richest 86 individuals and families in Canada have now accumulated as much wealth as the country’s poorest 11.4 million people. Fifteen years ago, the richest 86 had as much money as the poorest 10.1 million people.

---

The current economy is failing to create secure, well-paying jobs with adequate benefits. The fossil fuel industry, supported by trade agreements, government subsidies, and the bottom-line imperative of profit, is moving us towards an environmental catastrophe of global proportions.

Unionization also helps the economy. The CLC has noted that, “On average, unionized workers across Canada earned $5.28/hour more than non-union workers. Women with unions earned more too ($7.10/hour more) and got paid more fairly. Workers under age 25 earned an extra 27 per cent from jobs covered by a collective agreement. Workers in unions are an important part of the local community and economy because that’s where they spend their paycheques. Their incomes support local businesses (who create local jobs) and bolster the local tax base, which supports public works and community services that add to everyone’s quality of life.”

A healthy economy would also require fair taxation. It has been estimated that Canadian corporations have as much as $199 billion in offshore accounts (in countries like Panama, Barbados, the Cayman Islands and Luxembourg) as a way to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. Canadians for Tax Fairness estimates that federal and provincial governments lose $7.8 billion in tax revenue because of this. The figure could actually be as high as $20 billion a year. To put those numbers in context, it would cost just $4.7 billion over a 10-year period to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for First Nations peoples in Canada.

We also believe a new economy should include a higher basic minimum wage. Economists Jim Stanford and Jordan Brennan have written, “Claims that higher minimum wages will inevitably cause measurable negative consequences (especially for young workers and those in low-wage industries) are not consistent with empirical evidence from the Canadian provinces. Minimum wage regulations do not have important consequences on employment outcomes in either direction. Not surprisingly, employment outcomes depend first and foremost on the overall level of spending and macroeconomic activity.” They also argue that a higher minimum wage equips more individuals with greater purchasing power.

The current economy is failing to create secure, well-paying jobs with adequate benefits. The fossil fuel industry, supported by trade agreements, government subsidies, and the bottom-line imperative of profit, is moving us towards an environmental catastrophe of global proportions. Low wages, the concentration of wealth and the lack of tax justice are creating deepening inequalities and denying the revenue needed to invest in the social programs that benefit society as a whole. But there are alternatives. Public services, fair trade, climate jobs, greater unionization, social investments, a $15 minimum wage and fair taxation could help us take important steps towards a new, healthy economy.

The Council of Canadians discussed these issues and more at Groundswell 2016: Toward a healthy economy for people and the planet, our annual conference which was held in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, October 14-16.

Brent Patterson is the Political Director for the Council of Canadians.
In July, more than 200,000 litres of heavy oil mixed with diluents flowed uncontrollably down the North Saskatchewan River. It forced cities to close their drinking water intakes and impacted First Nations in Treaty 6 territory. Prince Albert was forced to draw water from the South Saskatchewan River 30 kilometres away – a river that is already over-extracted.

Within hours of the Husky Energy pipeline spill, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall were both parroting the same bit of propaganda – that pipelines are the safest way to transport oil and we need more of them. The sheer audacity of these statements points to our level of addiction to oil, and it isn’t good.

Though proponents claim pipelines are the so-called “safest” method of transporting oil, we have seen 8,360 spills in Saskatchewan since 2006, of which Husky is responsible for 1,463. This isn’t isolated to Saskatchewan either – there have been 28,666 crude oil spills in Alberta in the last 37 years. How is this considered safe?

The problem is that there are far too many spills from both rail and pipelines. The answer to this is twofold: we need to regulate existing pipelines and rail transport better, and we need to overcome our addiction to oil and begin the transition away from fossil fuels.

The Trudeau government has committed to reviewing environmental and freshwater legislation this fall. This should be an opportunity to develop stronger regulations and prevent environmental disasters of this magnitude in the future. By gutting the Fisheries Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Environmental Assessment Act and the National Energy Board Act, the Harper government opened up lakes and rivers to more risk. The new regulations need to be stronger and more effective in regulating and evaluating industrial projects in Canada that can have an impact on our environment.

Internationally, investments in renewable energy have recently surpassed investments in new fossil fuel projects, but Canada is lagging behind.

In the meantime, we need to demand an end to this pipeline fixation. To many, stopping the expansion of the oil industry and reducing our consumption may sound counter-intuitive because of the impression that we are trapped, and that our economy needs more oil and more pipelines to get out of its current economic slump.

But it is just that: a trap, a sign of our addiction. And both Notley and Wall are entrenching themselves deeper into this addiction by going to bat for an industry that is quickly failing globally. Transitioning and diversifying our economy is not an easy task, but it is an essential task. The longer we wait, the harder it will be. As one newspaper columnist recently pointed out, Premier Wall is doing an awful job of diversifying the Saskatchewan economy and seems able only to promote oil interests. Jobs are being lost in education, film and other non-renewable resource industries, not just in the oil industry.

Low oil prices and the global movement towards alternatives present an opportunity that needs to be seized immediately – an opportunity that will create jobs and won’t pollute our waters. Internationally, investments in renewable energy have recently surpassed investments in new fossil fuel projects, but Canada is lagging behind. Communities and families are already implementing their own alternatives, but it’s time for our governments to step up to the plate and support this transition and encourage low-carbon climate jobs.

The Husky Energy oil spill is a catastrophe and it is also a reality check. It is one spill too many, and while we work towards overcoming our dependency on oil, we need to do all we can to prevent future catastrophes – be they by pipeline or by train, as it is clearer than ever that industry cannot be trusted to do this on its own.

Daniel Cayley-Daoust is the Energy and Climate Campaigner and Emma Lui is the Water Campaigner for the Council of Canadians. The original version of the article appeared in the Regina Leader-Post.
Avi Lewis: Why We Should All Leap

Partners in life and partners in conviction and social activism, Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein make a formidable team. Through documentary film and writing, the two combined their talents to create This Changes Everything – a film and book by the same name. Then came the “Leap Manifesto” a political document meant to change how people think and act on climate change and economic inequality. Avi Lewis spoke with us recently about This Changes Everything and the Leap Manifesto.

CP: The book, the documentary and the Leap Manifesto – you did it as a three platform approach. Why did you choose to present it this way?
AL: We set out almost eight years ago on this sprawling multi-platform initiative with the conviction that to really introduce big, bold ideas into a very cluttered culture we needed to come at people from as many angles as possible. The book provided the opportunity to really lay out the master narrative and very detailed arguments with lots of proof. The film is a streamlined take on the thesis (examining the root causes of the climate crisis in extractivist capitalism) that emphasizes emotion and people on the front lines. When I was finishing the film I felt very strongly that the political demands that came out of our thesis needed to be in the movie, but every time I tried to put them in it felt like a pamphlet or a laundry list, so in the end I took them out of the film because they just weren’t convincing as narrated arguments. But then we had the crazy idea to try to launch a political manifesto at the same time as the film, and as soon as that was proposed it felt completely right. The Leap Manifesto, as a political document,
has its own language and its own cadence and its own social and cultural form, and that’s where the demands really belonged. As soon as we made that decision we realized it wasn’t our job to make up the demands for a movement of movements. And so that’s when we convened a historic meeting in May 2015 where we brought together activists from all different causes, from all around the country and laid the groundwork for what would be a consensus document, which is what the Leap Manifesto is.

**CP: And what has the response been like?**

**AL:** There has been a tidal wave of response. There have been two very different kinds. The response from the establishment: the corporate media, most of the political class, although not all of it, and the entire political pundit class has been entirely, overwhelmingly negative and fear-mongering. Some of those responses really show how this document has gotten under the skin of the people who benefit so mightily from the status quo. Brian Mulroney was trotted out from retirement to tell a business audience that the Leap Manifesto is “a new philosophy of economic nihilism” that “must be resisted and defeated.” The Globe and Mail editorial board called it “madness,” Rex Murphy milked like four columns bashing the Leap Manifesto, but of course, as probably Canada’s foremost climate denier, that’s not all that surprising from him. Conrad Black was rushing into the fray to see incremental approaches and market measures like cap and trade plans in Ontario and Quebec, or palty carbon taxes like in B.C. that don’t get anywhere near the level that would be required to actually reduce carbon emissions. People are smart and they perceive a vast chasm between the urgency of the crisis and the level of ambition that is on offer from our governments in terms of a response. So the Leap Manifesto, which treats the crisis as one requiring transformative change, has resonated for that reason. But also, and I think more importantly, the Leap Manifesto tells a story about the kind of world we want – so rather than try to scare people into action, it seeks to inspire them with an ambitious and positive agenda. And that agenda isn’t just to respond to the climate crisis, but to the sick economic system that is creating it, as well as with a host of related crises like our relationship with First Nations, our callous treatment of migrants and refugees, deep inequality and structural racism in society – all the intersecting crises that we know need urgent response.

**CP: What does the Leap mean to somebody who wants to be involved?**

**AL:** I think the Leap Manifesto is an invitation to look around at the different issues and struggles in your own community and see how they are connected and then to try to make your activism into the living connective tissue that will unite movements across the spectrum. In downtown Toronto, where I live, we have a terrific movement coming from labour and other allies around the fight for $15 – the $15 minimum dollar wage. This already brings together precarious and non-unionized workers with trade unions and other social forces. We have a divestment movement on campuses – young people trying to get their universities to divest from fossil fuels, churches doing the same. So I’m lucky to live in a big city with a large population with a lot of activism, but we have to be able to see the threads that connect the dots among all the issues we see around us. So as far as the “what can I do?” question goes, I think where the Leap can help is to serve as an invitation to look at your own local landscape of causes and see how they are brought together by an analysis of climate change, inequality and racism in society and to get out there and help out in all the different ways that activists do. I think what the Leap adds to the work of specific issued-based struggles is a systemic analysis, a way of seeing the causes as connected, and a meeting place for people to come together beyond their silos.

**CP: And what has the response been like?**

**AL:** There has been a tidal wave of response. There have been two very different kinds. The response from the establishment: the corporate media, most of the political class, although not all of it, and the entire political pundit class has been entirely, overwhelmingly negative and fear-mongering. Some of those responses really show how this document has gotten under the skin of the people who benefit so mightily from the status quo. Brian Mulroney was trotted out from retirement to tell a business audience that the Leap Manifesto is “a new philosophy of economic nihilism” that “must be resisted and defeated.” The Globe and Mail editorial board called it “madness,” Rex Murphy milked like four columns bashing the Leap Manifesto, but of course, as probably Canada’s foremost climate denier, that’s not all that surprising from him. Conrad Black was rushing into the fray to see incremental approaches and market measures like cap and trade plans in Ontario and Quebec, or palty carbon taxes like in B.C. that don’t get anywhere near the level that would be required to actually reduce carbon emissions. People are smart and they perceive a vast chasm between the urgency of the crisis and the level of ambition that is on offer from our governments in terms of a response. So the Leap Manifesto, which treats the crisis as one requiring transformative change, has resonated for that reason. But also, and I think more importantly, the Leap Manifesto tells a story about the kind of world we want – so rather than try to scare people into action, it seeks to inspire them with an ambitious and positive agenda. And that agenda isn’t just to respond to the climate crisis, but to the sick economic system that is creating it, as well as with a host of related crises like our relationship with First Nations, our callous treatment of migrants and refugees, deep inequality and structural racism in society – all the intersecting crises that we know need urgent response.

**CP: What do you think the biggest challenges are to get this change?**

**AL:** There is a tremendous amount of power and wealth invested in maintaining the status quo. So just like with corporate trade deals, just like with the right to water – thinking of other great Council of Canadians causes – just like with First Nations struggles, in order to win these necessary victories for people we have to confront the most powerful actors in our society: corporations and the governments that serve them. There is no shortcut. The Leap Manifesto doesn’t pretend we can avoid the actual clash of interests in society. Look at the fossil fuel industry – the most powerful and wealthiest industry in human history. It has trillions of dollars of future profits to lose and it’s fighting like its life is on the line. So that’s what we are up against. That’s why we have to build a movement of movements and connect the dots between all the different issues that people are fighting for so that we can build a much larger group of people who have everything to gain – a better, fairer world with more justice for everyone.

**CP: What advice would you give to somebody who wants to be involved?**

**AL:** I think the Leap Manifesto is an invitation to look around at the different issues and struggles in your own community and see how they are connected and then to try to make your activism into the living connective tissue that will unite movements across the spectrum. In downtown Toronto, where I live, we have a terrific movement coming from labour and other allies around the fight for $15 – the $15 minimum dollar wage. This already brings together precarious and non-unionized workers with trade unions and other social forces. We have a divestment movement on campuses – young people trying to get their universities to divest from fossil fuels, churches doing the same. So I’m lucky to live in a big city with a large population with a lot of activism, but we have to be able to see the threads that connect the dots among all the issues we see around us. So as far as the “what can I do?” question goes, I think where the Leap can help is to serve as an invitation to look at your own local landscape of causes and see how they are brought together by an analysis of climate change, inequality and racism in society and to get out there and help out in all the different ways that activists do. I think what the Leap adds to the work of specific issued-based struggles is a systemic analysis, a way of seeing the causes as connected, and a meeting place for people to come together beyond their silos.
the summer and looked each other in the eye and asked: should we call it? Should we declare victory and move on, or do we have a hell of a lot more work to do? And there was no hesitation as we recommitted to doubling down on the work of the Leap. So our first step was to zoom out and actually identify the kinds of interventions that we’ve been able to make in the culture in the last year – get clear on what we’ve discovered we can do. We haven’t made any decisions and we are actively seeking the input of allies to work out what our best next steps could be. We’ve been asking ourselves some questions like: Should we try to work with social movements across Turtle Island to deepen the Leap vision and create a kind of platform like the Movement for Black Lives has created in the U.S.? In other words, should we expand the Leap Manifesto into a much more specific, policy-based vision? Should we have a national convention where we bring together people to launch a platform like that? Should we continue to annoy the powerful, have twitter wars with Brad Wall, and fight the battle of big ideas in the culture? To what extent can we give people tools to self-organize around the Leap Manifesto? This is the thing that we are most excited about. Looking at the Bernie Sanders campaign and other movements that have allowed people to self organize – that have trusted and empowered the grassroots supporters of any particular cause and given people tools to use in their own communities – that’s a direction we know we want to take.

**CP:** I know our Council of Canadians chapters really responded to the Leap Manifesto

**AL:** There is no single organization that has responded as vigorously and as inspiring as the Council of Canadians – both to This Changes Everything, book and film, and to the Leap Manifesto. We’ve been staggered and really, really touched by how Council supporters and Council chapters have taken up the document and organized local meetings and town halls, film screenings and book clubs. I think we feel that the Council is the national movement organization that really gets the Leap Manifesto in its bones. Of course there are many other partners in our broad, broad coalition who fight on their issues and make connections, but for decades now the Council has been in the business of connecting the dots on different issues and I think that’s why there has been such a close working relationship between Leap and the Council.

The Council of Canadians welcomed Avi Lewis as a keynote speaker at our annual conference in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador in October. For more information about the Leap Manifesto visit www.leapmanifesto.org
between 200,000 and 250,000 litres of crude oil and other material leaked into the North Saskatchewan River on Thursday, July 21, from a breach in a Husky Energy owned pipeline. Close to 70,000 people lost access to clean drinking water because of the spill. Clean-up efforts are ongoing. Below are a few stories from people who have been directly impacted by the spill.

RICK SAWA
Prince Albert, Council of Canadians Board member

What has been the impact of the spill on your community?
For us rural folk, we get our water from the city. They shut our water off completely for days. When they shut it off, we had water in our [holding] tanks, but we had to boil it and bleach our dishes after we washed them. They quickly set up bottled water that we could go pick up. We still can’t drink it, but we can use it for everything else. When I asked where it comes from, they couldn’t tell me. It scared people because we did not know how long the water would be off – people said it could be weeks or even months.

What was it like for you on the day that it happened?
I was at home when I found out. When they shut the water off it was kind of frightening. A lot of people were in shock that this could happen to us, and some fear the long-term effect and wonder how soon we will have water. We got an email [from the Prince Albert Water Authority] saying they were shutting it off and that you needed to come pick up water. I did not have means to get water. Luckily, we had plans to go to a friend’s cabin so we were okay there. We have to be very careful and use bath water to flush the toilet. It was a frightening experience, and we were woken up somewhat. We keep hearing that pipelines are the greatest thing. To me, this shows that they aren’t!

What did you think of Husky’s handling of the spill?
When we found out [Husky Energy] had been warned 14 hours ahead of time that was a bit disturbing. It took 14 hours before they did something.
What did you think of the government’s response?
On the ground, I’m not sure what they are doing. Premier Brad Wall looks at this as an economic problem, not an environmental one. The deputy minister of the economy was the spokesperson for the spill, not the department of the environment. That was a bit odd.

The government is saying nobody died, whereas by rail we have deaths. They are saying we have to move [the crude] and need to choose the safest way to move it, that the only two options are pipelines or trains. But there’s a third option: let’s stop – or at least cut back – and start working towards renewables like many other countries across the world.

What can be done to help?
People can put pressure on the government to move away from oil and gas and to end subsidies, write letters to the editor, to MPs and MLAs.

LYLE BEAR
Muskoday First Nation

What has been the impact of the spill on your community?
For us First Nation people, water is sacred. It is the gift of life. We are taught by creator and our elders not to waste. Without it, none of us live. Animals, plants, trees. All life depends on this. Water is sacred to indigenous people, particularly people in Muskoday First Nation.

The band has gone to great lengths to provide safe water to about 650 residents. A number of years ago, Muskoday had an agreement with Prince Albert and the Prince Albert rural water authority to provide water to the First Nation. We have a low-pressure water line that runs about 15 to 20 kilometres that services Muskoday.

After the spill at the Husky plant, Muskoday First Nation and all users were shut off without notice. Our Chief and Council declared a state of emergency.

Within the state of emergency we were cautioned to use good judgment and use water in a sparing manner – no washing cars, no watering gardens, simply using water for daily necessities. We went under contract with a water deliverer from the Saskatoon area with water tankers to deliver water to our reservoirs. Bottled water was delivered every two days to the homes of elders. We will be under a boil water advisory for some time.

“I went into fight mode. I went to the river and I witnessed the oil slick and the scum streaming down the river from the dock. As Anishinabekwe, an Ojibway woman, I carry teachings about women and the water and I was asked to do water ceremonies.”
- Shelley Essaunce

What did you think of the response from Husky?
As far as I know, Husky has not yet met with our Chief. There has been no compensation for the cost related to water delivery. Husky has committed to meet with each community to provide compensation for any hardship caused by the oil spill. First Nations share this land. In our treaties we signed that we will live in harmony with the newcomers, the Europeans that have come to share this land. They have been slow in reciprocating. People and industry can be reckless about the treatment of water. We need to take care of Mother Earth. We only have one Earth.

SHELLEY ESSAUNCE
Prince Albert

What has been the impact of the oil spill on your community?
The Husky oil spill has been quite devastating. On July 21, my world changed when we were told to stockpile water because of the oil plume coming down the North Saskatchewan River where our intake pipe is for Prince Albert’s water source. It was on Facebook that I heard that we were instructed to stockpile and I was panicked. I didn’t know how much water to stockpile, for how long we would need to use the stockpiled water, and I was overcome with grief.

The morning of Monday July 25, when the oil plume had arrived in Prince Albert, I read about it on Twitter while still in bed. I burst into tears and wept. Such a loss of our water, our drinking water, the water that gave us life.

How have you responded to the spill?
I went into fight mode. I went to the river and I witnessed the oil slick and the scum streaming down the river from the dock. As Anishinabekwe, an Ojibway woman, I carry teachings about women and the water and I was asked to do water ceremonies. A group of three of us continued to do water ceremonies every day along the river for the first few weeks.

What is Husky doing to respond?
I am expecting that Husky “officials and experts” will tell us that the water is fine to use at some point.

Husky is apparently doing testing and saying that nature will take care of it and really we have nothing to worry about, so says their expert. I don’t trust this. There are also independent assessors in town.

The Council of Canadians was one of several organizations that supported a grassroots-led independent assessment of the water after the spill occurred. The results showed that the spill spread much further because of Husky Energy’s delay in reporting and responding, that the company has not been forthcoming about water testing or clean-up, and that people should have been warned earlier about the dangers with the water.

Brigette DePape is the Prairies Regional Organizer for the Council of Canadians.
In June, the National Energy Board (NEB) launched what was supposed to be a 21-month-long hearing into TransCanada’s Energy East pipeline. It was the beginning of a long, complicated process that will end with a recommendation to the federal government about whether or not the pipeline should be built.

The NEB process originally included preliminary panel sessions until December 2016 for intervenors to ask questions and explain their main areas of interest, and into 2017, the opportunity for intervenors and commenters to submit written evidence, the opportunity for intervenors to ask official questions, or put forward information requests of TransCanada and other intervenors, and eventually, the possibility of oral hearings and the cross-examination of TransCanada.

One thing is certain: this process is complex and it is a world where lawyers – of which TransCanada has plenty – are most comfortable. The Council of Canadians is working with intervenors across the country to make sure this opaque process is better understood and best utilized to advance the

The Council of Canadians teamed up with the Peace and Friendship Alliance in New Brunswick to help with the Harmony Project art installation, which involved painting the image from the Wolastoq flag along the proposed Energy East pipeline route to show opposition. Alma Brooks, Ben Gotschall and Council of Canadians New Brunswick Energy East Campaigner Mark D’Arcy stand by one of the painted trees.
goal of stopping Energy East before it is built and puts our communities and our planet at even greater risk.

The Council of Canadians was at the opening of the first NEB panel session in Saint John, New Brunswick in August with many local and regional partners. We held a press conference outside the venue where the panel sessions were being held to show that there is a strong opposition to this pipeline. Ron Tremblay, Grand Chief of the Wolastoq Mali-seet Grand Council, Lynaya Astephen of the Red Head, Anthony’s Cove Preservation Association, and Colin Sproul, spokesperson for the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen’s Association, gave powerful presentations to the media.

This outside activity complemented the energy and the powerful stories that Energy East opponents brought to TransCanada and the three NEB members inside the panel session.

TransCanada’s contempt and the NEB’s loss of credibility

One of the common themes we’ve seen for some time now is TransCanada’s contempt for landowners, First Nations and municipalities. Company officials often only partially answer local residents’ questions at the panel sessions, or outright refuse to respond. Indeed, in many instances, TransCanada’s well funded team of lawyers and experts were spinning and regurgitating talking points instead of answering questions. TransCanada is posing as the good corporate citizen, saying it is meeting with “this many” First Nations and “that many” landowners, but many people see this as posturing.

Another theme that has emerged is the NEB’s lack of credibility and transparency. This will make it more difficult for the Trudeau government to rely on the board to approve the pipeline. It was recently revealed that current NEB Energy East panel members met secretly with former Quebec premier Jean Charest to discuss the Energy East project. Charest was employed by TransCanada as a consultant at the time. The NEB had to apologize after it initially denied they had talked about the pipeline project. Three panel members recently resigned and the panel hearings were on hold at the time Canadian Perspectives went to press.

Since being elected, the Trudeau government has attempted to bolster the NEB’s image with its proposed interim measure for the Energy East hearings. Effectively, the NEB has added a separate public meetings process to discuss

Indigenous communities came out in large numbers on the second and third days of the Saint John panel sessions and the resounding message was that Indigenous peoples would need to give their consent before this project could move forward.

Re-imagining our collective fossil-free future

We need to seize opportunities to build a new vision and a new future for our communities.

TransCanada has proposed its vision – a future of corporate profits made by sending extracted resources across Canada to outside markets, endangering our water along the route; a future where we are abandoning our climate targets and putting our sacred waterways at risk. This future isn’t pretty.

Luckily, we’ve got tools to change things. The Leap Manifesto has given us a good framework with which to embark on this journey, and researchers like Stanford’s Mark Jacobson, with his Solutions Project, have given us a path to follow to phase out fossil fuel energy needs in the next 20 years.

As campaigners, we meet new people every day. We hear stories of people fighting for and creating a better world, and we are reminded of the power of collective action. There is strong support for alternatives to a fossil-fuel–filled future. We’ve got a challenge ahead of us, but I believe we are ready to meet it.

Daniel Cayley-Daoust is the Energy and Climate Justice Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.
Chapter Activist Profile
Charlene Morton, South Shore, Nova Scotia

The South Shore of Nova Scotia is known for its picturesque coastline views, beaches and artisan communities. It’s also home to the vibrant South Shore Council of Canadians Chapter, whose members are particularly active on water issues in their region. Charlene Morton is a local chapter activist and spoke recently with Canadian Perspectives about why she volunteers her time.

How did you first get involved with the Council of Canadians?
Although I’m originally from the South Shore, I had moved away for work and was living in Vancouver for several years. I often came home in the summer, and, during the summer of 2011, I was home and volunteered for the Growing Green Festival through the Town of Bridgewater Community Sustainability Network. After getting to know Marion Moore, Co-Chair of the South Shore Chapter, through Festival volunteer work and having been a supporter of the Council of Canadians for years, I was happy to take up an invitation to join the chapter steering committee when I retired and moved back to Nova Scotia the following summer.

What is the chapter focused on these days?
The chapter has been working on water and energy-related issues lately. We organized the third annual photo exhibit for Water Week in the spring and we achieved the first Blue Community designation in Atlantic Canada with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg passing the three resolutions in December 2015. In April, we launched the campaign to “Protect Offshore Nova Scotia,” focusing on the reform of the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, a regulatory agency that has given approvals to StatOil (Norway) and Shell Oil to drill off the South Shore very close to fragile fishing grounds. We’re also working on raising awareness about proportional representation and organizing a panel discussion about the efficiency of biomass-driven energy.

What is your most memorable moment or campaign?
Most campaigns are inspiring because of the new people and allies one meets and works with from local communities and the region in general. The Water Week photo exhibit, which we’ve been doing for the past three years, has grown and taken me into different Art Gallery and school communities. The Campaign to Protect Offshore NS has been the most interesting in terms of research and the growing list of contacts and endorsements. The Blue Communities Project was another learning process as we worked with municipal staff, committees and councilors. From these experiences, one collects memorable moments, knowing that they all offer considerable inspiration and knowledge for volunteer work as well as bringing in new friends and allies to share strategies and solutions for common problems.

What challenges does the chapter face?
We’re a pretty active group politically but the work can be all-consuming, so burnout is an issue. Although we do have a solid group of people involved, we’re always trying to recruit new members. We usually ask people attending a meeting or public event to identify those who might be interested and then we reach out to them.

What advice would you give to people who might be considering becoming a chapter activist?
It’s so important to build a support base. Being a small group in a small rural area means you need to generate a broad base so you’re not working on issues alone. We meet a lot of knowledgeable people, working on things that really matter for everyone. It’s nice to see people come together and work hard to achieve meaningful goals for their communities and beyond.

For more information about how to join a chapter in your area, visit our website at www.canadians.org/chapters or call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Council of Canadians chapters are active in almost 60 communities across the country. Here are just a few examples of what they have been doing in recent months:

**Glyphosate is dangerous**
The Kent County chapter pressed New Brunswick’s Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health to release a report on glyphosate, a herbicide that is widely sprayed in the province. In June, chapter activist Ann Pohl wrote to Dr. Jennifer Russell, stating, “We need to see that report on glyphosate that you promised we would have before the spray season begins. We need to see that report now. It is not clear to us if your report has been scrapped, suppressed, or something else has happened.” In late July, the government had released the report that shockingly concluded there is “no increased risk for New Brunswickers exposed to glyphosate.” This despite the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer saying glyphosate “is probably carcinogenic to humans.”

**Support for immigration detainees**
The Peterborough chapter rallied in support of immigration detainees being held in a prison in nearby Lindsay, Ontario. Indefinite immigration detention is an issue of concern for many Ontario chapters as well as chapters across the country. In July, the chapter rallied outside the constituency office of Maryam Monsef, the Minister of Democratic Institutions, demanding that she call on Ralph Goodale, the Minister of Public Safety, to meet with immigration detainees on hunger strike. The international standard is to limit immigration detention to 90 days, but in Canada there is no such limit. Unfortunately, instead of moving to this international norm, the Trudeau government decided in August to spend $132 million on new prison facilities for immigration detainees to replace older institutions.

**“Colonialism No More”**
The Regina chapter supported the “Colonialism No More” camp outside the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) office in that city. The camp called on the government to revoke the Indian Act, honour the Treaty rights, and address long-standing issues impacting First Nations, including poverty, housing and education, inadequate drinking water and a lack of job opportunities. A spokesperson for the camp said, “We’re tired of the suicides. We’re tired of the poverty and the water that’s not drinkable.” After almost 125 days camping in front of the INAC office, and a visit from Regina MP and federal Cabinet minister Ralph Goodale in late July, the camp folded near the end of August.

**Fair trade, not corporate power**
The Victoria chapter is working to get the municipal councils of Victoria, Saanich and Esquimalt to pass resolutions against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Chapter activists Ted Woynillowicz and Neil Mussell highlighted the undemocratic nature of the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provision in the TPP that allows transnational corporations to challenge government decisions made in the public interest. Chapter representatives stated, “The TPP is a contentious so-called free trade agreement that has little to do with trade and much to do with a transfer of power to multinational corporations.”

**Key wins**
Since the last issue of Canadian Perspectives this past April, Council of Canadians chapters have celebrated several key campaign wins, including an indefinite moratorium on fracking in New Brunswick, the Niagara Falls Planning Department recommending against zoning changes needed to destroy the Thundering Waters forest until five conditions are met (including consultation with Indigenous peoples opposed to the development), and Fredericton City Council admitting that it erred when it sent a letter (voted on at a council meeting closed to the public) to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau supporting the controversial Energy East pipeline.

**In memoriam**
The Council of Canadians mourns the passing of Brockville chapter activist Jim Riesberry, who passed away on May 3, 2016, at the age of 82. Jim founded the chapter and served as its chairperson for eight years. Several years ago, Jim commented, “Over the last 10 years we have presented to city council, participated in demonstrations in Ottawa, met annually with our MP, screened documentaries, and hosted Maude Barlow and the Unbottle It! tour, among other things. We don’t get to celebrate as many victories as we would like, but we have the joy of working with others across Canada and together being an influence.” Our sincere condolences go out to Jim’s family and friends.

To read more about how chapters are acting for social justice in communities across the country visit www.canadians.org/community.

Brent Patterson is the Political Director for the Council of Canadians.
A Prescription for Better Medicine

by Michael Butler

This fall, the federal, provincial and territorial governments will enter into negotiations that will shape the future of medicare in Canada. The federal government is hoping to conclude negotiations on a new accord by the end of 2016. Many of the important topics being negotiated revolve largely around money.

But should negotiations centre only on money, or should they be about better health?

Medicare is Canada’s most cherished social program. Canadians from coast to coast depend on it. The health accord negotiations need to be seen as an opportunity to confirm medicare, but also to expand quality public health care.

According to the Canadian Pharmacists Association, Canada is one of the few developed countries in the world without universal pharmacare, and the only country in the world with a universal health care system that excludes prescription drugs. A national drug coverage plan – known as universal pharmacare – was first recommended in 1964 by the Royal Commission on Health Services and in multiple reports since. It remains one of the core pieces missing from medicare.

Recent polls show 91 per cent of Canadians want a national pharmacare program.

Currently 10 per cent of Canadians (over 3.5 million people) are not covered by any type of drug plan and a further 11 per cent have limited drug coverage. Canadians spent $29 billion in 2015 on prescription drugs – the equivalent of $814 a year per Canadian.

At the same time, more than one in five Canadians (23 percent) reported having trouble paying for the drugs their doctors prescribe, including critical medicines such as asthma inhalers, antibiotics, anticoagulants and insulin. People commonly split doses to make the medication last longer, or decide not to fill the prescription at all because it costs too much, which leads to increased costs in the public health care system. This means between 3 million and 8 million Canadians have worse health outcomes due to the cost of medication and the lack of a universal pharmacare program.

Canada has the second highest per capita spending on drug costs in the OECD, following only the United States. Since 2000, the growth in drug expenditures in Canada has outpaced the growth in all other countries. Canadian drug expenditures increased by 184.43 per cent between 2000 and 2012, a growth rate higher than any other comparator country. Even the U.S.-developed prescription medications cost on average 30 per cent more in Canada than they do in other industrialized countries.

Despite our high level of pharmaceutical spending, Canada attracts the lowest amount of pharmaceutical research among comparable countries. Big Pharma spent 4.4 per cent of earnings on research and development (R&D) in 2015, the lowest amount since reporting started in 1988. It’s the twelfth consecutive year that Canadian pharmaceutical companies have not met the threshold of 10 per cent of domestic sales to be put into R&D. The companies promised this in 1987 in exchange for having their periods of market exclusivity increased.

According to Steve Morgan, a professor of health policy at the University of British Columbia, the patchwork system between government jurisdictions and the lack of a national formulary (an evidence-based list of approved drugs) mean medication is not being prescribed appropriately. More than one in three Canadians (37%) over age 65 filled at least one prescription for medicines believed to pose unnecessary risks for older adults (at a cost of $400 million).

Dr. Joel Lexchin, an emergency room physician and professor of health policy at York University, says medicines are commonly underused, overused or misused in Canada. It is estimated that 1 in 6 hospitalizations in Canada could be prevented through national regulation and better guidelines. This is compounded by a lack of transparency in the approvals of new medication and poor after-market surveillance.

This fall, the Council of Canadians will push the federal government to create needed checks and balances to protect Canadians from Big Pharma’s influence on our health care. Not only can pharmacare be a tool to save money, it can also result in better medicine. Pharmacare requires a national formulary to achieve fair, equitable, appropriately prescribed and evidence-based drug coverage across Canada. This is an opportunity to improve the safety, monitoring and quality of prescription drugs, while controlling costs.

We believe all Canadians deserve access to the prescription drugs they need, regardless of place of residence, age, employment status, or income. No one should have to choose between paying rent, buying food or purchasing medicine they need.

Michael Butler is the Health Care Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.
For over three decades, I have travelled the world, learning about water, learning that abundance is not a given, and that the future of the human race and the species with whom we share this planet is literally dependent upon it. I have stood in solidarity with those fighting for water justice in their communities or trying to save endangered lakes and rivers from contamination, overextraction and corporate malfeasance, and I am always amazed at how far away these struggles appear to be to most Canadians when I return home.

For make no mistake, the world is running out of accessible water. On World Water Day 2015, the UN reported that demand for water will increase by 55 per cent over the next 15 years. By that time global water resources will meet only 60 per cent of the world’s demand. A 2016 report from leading scientists warned that two-thirds of the global population currently lives with severe water scarcity for at least one month of every year and almost 2 billion suffer severe water scarcity for at least half of every year. The water crisis could affect as many as 7 billion
On World Water Day 2015, the UN reported that demand for water will increase by 55 per cent over the next 15 years. By that time global water resources will meet only 60 per cent of the world’s demand.

people by 2075. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gathered 500 scientists together who concluded that our global abuse of water has caused the planet to enter a “new geologic age” akin to the retreat of the glaciers over 11,000 years ago.

It is no surprise that some parts of the world, such as Australia, many countries in Africa and all of the Middle East, are in water crisis as they had few water resources to begin with. But the crisis has suddenly moved well beyond the expected. Canadians would be wise to look at other traditionally water-rich countries for insight into what could happen to us if we do not plan – if we do not hold our governments accountable to build a coherent water strategy for the future.

Brazil, listed by the UN as the most water-rich country in the world, is experiencing such devastating drought in its southern region that 20 million people are at risk, and the city of São Paulo almost ran its reservoir dry last year. Muddy sludge clogged municipal pipes as residents turned on their taps. In China, over half the rivers have disappeared in just 25 years. The United States, listed as the eighth water-richest country in the world, has been experiencing a multi-year drought rivalling the Dust Bowl of the 1930s throughout large swaths of its south and west. In 2015, California had to impose strict water rationing in many communities, and neighbour turned against neighbour as people battled over compliance. While it is true that El Niño-driven rains have provided some relief to the most drought-stricken parts of the United States, scientists believe that it is short-lived and that droughts in the arid parts of the U.S. will become both more frequent and longer lasting.

A perfect storm of declining water supplies, rising poverty levels and climbing water rates has brought what we have always thought of as Third World issues to our own doorstep.

Despite our shared mythology of limitless water, Canada is not immune to this, the world’s most pressing problem. We face serious issues of water contamination, eutrophication, overextraction, glacial melt and climate change. Extractive energy and mining projects endanger our waterways. Corporations are eying Canada’s water, setting up bottled water operations and bidding to run water services on a for-profit basis. There are even renewed calls to allow bulk commercial water exports to drought-stricken states.

Water protection regulations across the country are uneven and generally inadequate, and federal rules are almost non-existent. They are a patchwork of outdated, vague and even conflicting regulations with no coherent overarching principles or rational planning. Many of our laws were originally enacted well over a century ago for a country that was still largely rural and agrarian and whose population mostly extracted water for their own use. As our economy grew and industrialized, our governments updated laws, enacted new ones and set regulations piecemeal as situations and need arose. There was little understanding, among either the general population or elected officials, of the consequences of pollution, overuse or overextraction. Our forebears genuinely believed that clean water would always be available and that there was more than enough for every purpose.

We have only recently begun to realize how mistaken that belief was.

This book is a cry from the heart. It is time to abandon our erroneous beliefs that Canada has unlimited supplies of water, that Canadians have taken care of this water heritage, or that we still have lots of time to do so. We need a strong, national plan of action based on a new water ethic that puts water protection and water justice at the heart of all our policies and laws. The path forward is clear, if not simple.

Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and author of 18 books. This text is an excerpt of her recently received book Boiling Point: Government neglect, corporate abuse and Canada’s water crisis.

Get your FREE copy of Boiling Point!

Get a free copy of Maude’s new book with your gift to help protect every lake, every river. Just start a monthly gift with the Council of Canadians of $5 or more OR increase your current monthly gift by $5 or more OR make a single gift of $75 or more.
5 Things You Should Know about Water Protection

Why we must protect every lake and every river under a new Navigable Waters Protection Act

Four years ago, the former Harper government introduced two anti-environmental bills that made sweeping changes to some of Canada’s key laws concerning water and the environment. The Harper government removed protections for 99 per cent of lakes and rivers under the Navigable Waters Protection Act. The government also gutted the Fisheries Act so that it no longer protects fish or fish habitat. Nearly 3,000 environmental assessments were cancelled as a result of amendments made to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Mining, tar sands, fracking, pipeline and other risky projects are being approved under these weakened laws to this day.

This summer, the Trudeau government announced it will review and hold public consultations through the fall about the National Energy Board, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigation Protection Act. The government will create two expert panels to examine how the National Energy Board and the federal environmental assessment process approve projects. The expert panels will detail their findings in reports that are expected in January 2017.

West Coast Environmental Law Centre’s Anna Johnston told Desmog Canada that the review is a “once-in-a-generation opportunity for Canada to enact really visionary new environmental laws and processes.”

Here are five things that must be included in the Navigation Protection Act (NPA) – formerly the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA) – for water to be protected for future generations:

1. The human right to water and community consent

By Emma Lui
and inequitable water extraction by corporations or governments.

The Trudeau government’s review of the NPA and other environmental legislation creates an opportunity to incorporate the human right to water into these laws. The Trudeau government must create mechanisms in the acts that allow communities to say “no” to projects that pollute or inequitably extract water and say “yes” to protecting local lakes and rivers and upholding the human right to water.

2 All energy and resource development projects must be reviewed.

The Harper government’s 2012 water legislation changes resulted in the exemption of the review of pipeline and transmission line projects under the current Navigation Protection Act. The pipeline industry lobbied for – and won – these changes.

If built, the Energy East pipeline would be the largest pipeline in North America, transporting 1.1 billion barrels of crude oil from the Alberta tar sands to New Brunswick. The Energy East pipeline would cross 2,963 identified waterways and countless smaller streams and wetlands along its route. However, under the current legislation, Energy East and every other large pipeline project will not undergo any scrutiny under the Navigation Protection Act because pipelines are still exempted. Drinking water sources for close to 5 million people, as well as fishing, tourism, recreational waters, a beluga habitat and the home of the world’s largest tides in the Bay of Fundy, would all be in danger from a spill from the Energy East pipeline.

The name of the act should be restored to the Navigable Waters Protection Act and it must include assessing the impacts of pipelines and transmission line projects on lakes, rivers and other waterways once again.

3 Mining, hydro dams and other projects are putting lakes and rivers at risk.

Under the NPA, the former Harper government removed protections from all waterways in Canada except 97 lakes, 62 rivers and 3 oceans. Mining, hydro dam, liquefied fracked gas, fish farms or other projects on the remaining 99 per cent of lakes and rivers do not trigger an environmental assessment under the NPA.

Changes to the NPA and other environmental legislation must be part of a long-term plan to transition away from fossil fuels and protect every lake and every river.

KGHM Ajax Mining Inc. is proposing to build a copper and gold mine south of Kamloops, British Columbia, on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc Nation. If approved, the open pit mine would produce 65,000 tonnes of ore per day, which would be transported to the Port of Vancouver for shipping. The KGHM Ajax mine threatens Jacko Lake, which is known as one of the best fly-fishing lakes in B.C. Retired miner Tony Brumell believes the lake will “essentially die” if the mine is built.

The Trudeau government must scrap the schedule of 97 lakes, 62 rivers and 3 oceans and ensure the impacts of dams or other structures are assessed individually for every lake, river and navigable waterway.

4 Indigenous title and water rights must be recognized in every water and environmental law.

Parts of Canada are on unceded Indigenous territory. The Trudeau government has repeated its commitment to establishing a nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous communities. However, this commitment was called into question when the Trudeau government approved permits for the controversial Site C dam in northeastern B.C., which some First Nations vehemently opposed.

In order for the Trudeau government to be true to its word, it must incorporate the obligation to obtain free, prior and informed consent into the NWPA and other water legislation so that Indigenous treaty and water rights are respected and a nation-to-nation relationship is truly established.

5 Clean drinking water, recreation, sustainable jobs, and a just and healthy economy are inextricably linked.

Media and governments often falsely pit the environment against jobs. They argue that if people stand up to protect water or the environment they must be opposed to job creation. This is far from the truth.

The number of jobs created in water-intensive industries like mining, oil and gas is very low compared to jobs in other sectors. According to Statistics Canada, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas made up only 2 per cent of the total number of jobs in 2013. In fact, the industries that produce the most jobs are trade (15%), health care and social assistance (12%), manufacturing (10%), professional, scientific and technical services (8%), construction (7%) and education services (7%).

Changes to the NPA and other environmental legislation must be part of a long-term plan to transition away from fossil fuels and protect every lake and every river. For real change, the Trudeau government must restore and enhance freshwater protections in a way that creates a 100 percent clean, renewable energy economy by 2050, one that respects Indigenous rights, creates low-carbon, sustainable jobs, and promotes water and climate justice.

Your voice matters. You can use these five points at the public consultations, in letters to the editor, or when talking to friends, family or your local Member of Parliament about the urgent need to protect water. Together, we can make the new water and environmental legislation the catalyst for the water future we want.

Emma Lui is the Water Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.
Lakes and rivers in Canada are in danger. The former Harper government left 99 per cent of lakes and rivers unprotected under the Navigation Protection Act (NPA) and clawed back other regulations meant to protect freshwater sources.

Take part in the Council’s Every Lake, Every River Campaign
Send a message in a bottle to your local Member of Parliament that you want every lake and every river safeguarded from environmentally damaging projects like mines, dams, fracking and pipelines.

This fall, the Trudeau government will hold public consultations on restoring and modernizing freshwater protections. With so many harmful projects being proposed, restoring and enhancing these protections is more important than ever. You and I must urge the government to show the leadership needed to protect every lake and every river in Canada and Indigenous communities.

Big oil, mining and other industrial companies will be lobbying the government to keep the status quo.

The Trudeau government must ditch the NPA and replace it with a restored and enhanced Navigable Waters Protection Act and other water legislation so that all lakes, rivers and waterways are fully protected.

Here’s how you can send a message in a bottle to your Member of Parliament:

1. Visit www.canadians.org/EveryLakeEveryRiver for a website link to confirm whether your local lake or river is unprotected. Any water body not on this list is unprotected. All lakes and rivers are now unprotected from large pipeline and transmission line projects.

2. Go to your local lake or river and put some water from it in a Mason jar. Take a photo and tweet it with the hashtag #EveryLakeEveryRiver and mention @CouncilofCDNs. You can also email the photo to us at webmaster@canadians.org. We will add your photo to a Flickr album and feature it on our website.

3. Deliver the jar of water to your local Member of Parliament’s constituency office during office hours. On the lid, write “Protect Lake _________” and a message to your MP. Talk to your local MP about the importance of protecting every lake and every river.

Donate to help protect Every Lake, Every River
Your donation is needed to:

Get people informed and engaged. Knowledge is power, and your gift will equip people across the country with tools to get informed and engaged – and join our movement for water justice.

Flood the consultations. You’ll help to launch a national ad campaign to ensure all of us know when and where this fall’s consultations are happening and turn out in huge numbers. This is our chance to be heard.

Keep the pressure on MPs. You’ll support critical local actions and letter-writing campaigns aiming at keeping the pressure on MPs to stand up to Big Oil lobbyists and to listen to their constituents.

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177 (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET).

Prefer to donate by mail? Send your cheque payable to “The Council of Canadians”:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate or government funding, and always has. Our work is 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you. Thank you for your support!
Building the People’s Climate Plan

by Robin Tress

The federal government has been holding Climate Change Town Halls across the country to inform their National Climate Strategy, which will be released by December. The Council of Canadians has responded through an initiative called the People’s Climate Plan. This initiative was put together by a coalition of groups working to make climate action work for us – the people. We are coming together to demand a national plan that focuses on what we really need: effective climate action that attacks the root of the climate crisis.

The People’s Climate Plan has three main requirements. In order to be effective and worthwhile, Canada’s climate plan must align with the best available climate science, move us rapidly towards a 100 per cent renewable economy, and be justice-based.

Based in science

Science helps us perpetually refine our understanding of the world. Science tells me that since I was born in 1990, the global temperature every month of my life has been hotter than the average month in the last century. Earlier in my life, scientists largely agreed that if we could limit global warming below 2 degrees Celsius there would be a good chance that climate change would not spin beyond out of control.[ As our understanding of climate change has evolved, scientists have determined that a 1.5 degree limit on warming is more compatible with a livable future, and in order to reach that limit, more than 80 per cent of remaining fossil fuel reserves must remain unburned.

So when we say that our climate plan must be aligned with science, we mean that the government’s plan can’t ignore the uncomfortable truth that the tar sands must stay unburned if we expect to have a livable future. Since we can’t keep extracting bitumen, there is no need for new pipelines like Energy East or the Trans Mountain pipeline. Rejecting these monstrous pieces of infrastructure is central to the People’s Climate Plan and must be at the heart of Trudeau’s plan too.

Not only does the People’s Climate Plan call for no more pipelines to be built, it also calls for no new fossil fuel infrastructure. New LNG plants, tanker terminals, natural gas storage facilities, offshore oil rigs – under a science-based climate plan, these are all non-starters.

100% renewable economy

Since we need to aggressively ramp down global fossil fuel production, we need a different way to power our cities and homes. A 100% renewable economy is possible, achievable, and mandatory if we intend to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Better yet, the Council of Canadians believes we can – and must – have this renewable economy by the year 2050.

There are all kinds of ways to get our economy off fossil fuels. “Delivering Community Power” is one example of an opportunity to position Canada Post as the centrepiece of our new renewable economy. By running our mail fleet on renewable-powered vehicles, introducing postal banking and other services to communities across the country, and doing it all through one of Canada’s strongest and most influential unionized workplaces, Canada Post could be a hub of the green transition.

Justice-based transition

Not only do fossil fuels harm our climate, but the extraction of fossil fuels and natural resources almost invariably involves steamrolling over a community impacted by that extraction. In Canada, these communities tend to be poor, racialized or Indigenous communities, rural, and otherwise excluded from environmental decision-making processes. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change often hit these already marginalized communities the hardest.

While we build our renewable transition, it’s critical to ensure that Indigenous communities are part of the discussion, and have given their free, prior and informed consent to new projects and programs. In line with this, the People’s Climate Plan calls for the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the discussion about building a just transition we can’t forget about the people who actually do the building. There are a huge number of skilled workers currently employed in unsustainable sectors who could be retrained so they could be employed in the new economy. This retraining will take investment from government and post-secondary educational institutions. Iron and Earth (ironandearth.org) is one organization working hard to shift workers from the fossil fuel industry to sustainable employment.

Many of the Council’s chapters and supporters have already participated in local climate hearings and have shared information about this three-pronged people’s plan. You can chip in too by attending an upcoming hearing in your area, or by submitting your ideas to the federal government’s climate portal online.

Council of Canadians’ chapters work in communities across Canada for climate justice. Many chapters participated in the “100 per cent possible” rallies last fall to push for government action on climate change.

Robin Tress is the Atlantic Organizing Assistant for the Council of Canadians.
Canada Hasn’t Learned Its Lessons on “Free Trade”

by Sujata Dey

Barbed wire still protects the cracked pavement where an abandoned John Deere plant used to operate in Welland, Ontario. The building, still standing, is testimony to the Niagara region’s former status as a manufacturing powerhouse.

Recently, Council of Canadians chapter activist Fiona McMurran organized a tour for Anne-Marie Mineur, a Dutch Member of the European Parliament, showing her abandoned manufacturing plants that are relics of the pre-NAFTA days. The ghosts of Welland are abundant: Union Carbide, Welland Industries, Energetex Tubesite, Lakeside Steel, John Deere, Powerblades Industries, Welded Tube of Canada, Universal Resource Recovery, Atlas Steel, ASW Steel, Henniges and Automotive Sealing Systems Canada.

“Once known as the bustling industrial heartland of Niagara, where rails and water meet, Welland has now become the city that free trade left behind,” McMurran noted.

Photos of the abandoned plants are eerie, a testimony to an economy that was slowly crushed. While the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is not solely to blame, Canada’s manufacturing sector hollowed out since NAFTA’s inception. Statistics Canada data show that 540,000 manufacturing jobs (as calculated by Unifor from Statcan’s CANSIM site) have been lost since 2000, a fact that not even NAFTA proponents can deny. As well, many of the promises made about NAFTA – increased productivity, more jobs, more money in our pockets – have simply not come true.

This is ironic because free trade agreements are becoming more contentious around the world – with hundreds of thousands of Germans protesting against trans-Atlantic trade deals, with trade agreements playing a highly visible role in the U.S. presidential election, and with India and Eastern Europe trying to exit bilateral investment agreements. Canada, a country bound by a long-standing trade deal, has not even had a debate about the proposed Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) or the Trans-Pacific Partnership, despite their looming impacts.

And yet, we have faced the brunt of free trade. While our economy has grown, equality has not. Statistics Canada data show that workers’ inflation-adjusted average wages have stagnated while CEOs’ incomes have risen. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives publishes an annual survey showing how long it takes the average CEO to make what the median worker makes in a year. This year, it took just 12 hours.

Although Canada has signed an unprecedented number of trade agreements, this doesn’t guarantee more trade. In fact, export growth has been higher with countries not covered by such agreements. Jim Stanford, an economist and special advisor at Unifor, Canada’s largest private sector union, demonstrates that Canada’s export growth has been faster with countries not covered by trade agreements. Canada’s exports to South Korea actually declined after a bilateral trade agreement came into force.

Whereas 5 per cent of Canada’s exports are with countries outside NAFTA covered by free trade agreements (FTAs), close to 30 per cent of bilateral trade occurs with non-FTA partners. Added to this, Canada’s exports to non-FTA countries have grown faster than imports. In May 2016, Statistics Canada revealed that we had record trade deficits.

Under NAFTA, food sovereignty has been challenged and local production threatened, with many small farmers in all three NAFTA countries losing their livelihoods. While Canadian agriculture exports tripled from $11 billion to $33 billion between 1988 and 2007, net farm income fell by more than half during that period and Canadian farm debt doubled. Canada has lost many family farms – the number fell from 566,128 in 1970 to 204,730 in 2011. Now, most cattle, hogs and poultry are concentrated in large factory farms.

And while NAFTA’s promises didn’t add up, we got something that wasn’t on our radar: investor attacks on our public interest policies through Investor State Dispute Settlement provisions in Chapter 11 of NAFTA. This was designed to protect investors from uneven application of the rule of law in Mexico, but instead of protecting Canadians, it allowed corporations to sue Canada. Seventy per cent of all lawsuits under these provisions have been against Canada, most of them attacking social or environmental regulations made in the public interest.

History teaches us that NAFTA was not a good deal for our country. Why haven’t we learned our lesson when it comes to trade deals?

Sujata Dey is the Trade Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.
Dr. Profit’s Trial Against Medicare

by Michael Butler

In September, medicare in Canada was put on trial as Dr. Brian Day’s lawsuit against the B.C. Ministry of Health got underway at the province’s Supreme Court. The outcome will have national implications for Canada’s universal, public health care system.

Dr. Brian Day launched his lawsuit in July 2012, claiming that British Columbia’s ban on the purchase of private insurance for medically necessary services already covered by the public system is a violation of Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Dr. Day argues that if you have money, you should have the right to buy your way to the front of the line.

The Council of Canadians organized a rally outside the B.C. Supreme Court on the first day of the hearing involving health care practitioners and researchers, trade union leaders and concerned Canadians. As Dr. Day, who is known to many as “Dr. Profit,” attempted to dismantle medicare, the Council of Canadians was there to raise awareness and show solid public support for a public system.

Dr. Day, propped up by a right-wing, Calgary-based lobby group with close ties to former prime minister Stephen Harper and other corporate interests, pretends this case is about health care. “Although [Day] argues that he’s fighting for patients and the right of patients to pay, his strategy is to charge for the right of doctors to charge,” explained Colleen Fuller of the Independent Patient Voices Network.

Here are 6 things you need to know about Dr. Profit’s challenge to public health care:

1. This case is the greatest threat to medicare in a generation. This case isn’t about improving health care; it’s about money and greed. Dr. Day is using misinformation and the courts to force in a two-tiered, U.S.-style system.

2. Polls show Canadians strongly support medicare and its core principle that health care should be provided on the basis of need and not the ability to pay. While there are real challenges in our universal public health care system, we need to modernize it, not privatize it. What Dr. Day wants is against the Canada Health Act and its principles of universality and equity. The costly queue-jumping he is advocating doesn’t benefit everyday Canadians. It would allow some people to pay for their health care while taking away doctors from the public system.

3. Dr. Day says patients – and doctors – should have a choice. But doctors already have the freedom to opt out of the public system. What Dr. Profit actually wants is to be able to charge an unlimited amount for his services and then also charge the government (and taxpayers) for it. This is what the case is really about.

4. Dr. Profit’s clinics – the private Cambie Surgery Centre and the Specialist Referral Clinic – were caught extra-billing and double-billing. A 2012 audit conducted by the B.C. government found that in just one month, Dr. Day’s clinic had illegally billed patients close to $500,000, including $66,734 in overlapping claims where Day billed both the patient and the province.

5. Evidence from around the world shows private clinics erode public health care and increase wait times. It has been shown that wait times are highest in Canada in areas with the most privatization because these clinics poach doctors, nurses and resources from the public system. Private clinics also “cherry pick” their patients and leave patients with more complex cases to the public system.

6. A study of more than 1,000 Workers Compensation Board patients in British Columbia showed that not only is private health care more expensive, it does not improve return to work times. (Patients in the public system did marginally better and for a fraction of the cost.)

The Council of Canadians is part of a broad coalition of groups supporting public health care and working to stop Dr. Day and his plan to bring U.S.-style two-tiered health care to Canada.

Michael Butler is the Health Care Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.
Mel Hurtig’s Passion for Justice Still Guides Us
by Maude Barlow

Mel Hurtig was a force of nature. I first met Mel in the fall of 1985, when he invited me to a series of meetings to discuss the coming Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. There I met the people I most admired in our country—Bob White, Grace Hartman, David Suzuki, Pierre Berton, Walter Gordon, Sheila Copps, Mel Watkins, Stephen Clarkson, Christina McCall, Stephen Lewis, Duncan Cameron, Doris Anderson, Margaret Atwood and many others. For decades, I felt our movement needed a friend and mentor for many years, helping to create what is now one of Canada’s most vibrant social and environmental justice organizations with more than 100,000 members and supporters.

Mel continued to cross this great country, speaking to thousands of people, increasingly addressing another passion—that of the growing inequality in Canadian society. Just as he predicted when we founded the Council, our social security net became frayed and Mel was deeply affected by the poverty, especially among the young, he saw on his travels. His 1999 book *Pay the Rent or Feed the Kids* was a cry from his heart asking how child poverty could exist in a country as blessed with wealth as Canada.

We had our disagreements, of course. I did not support the founding of the National Party in 1992, fearing a split of the anti-NAFTA vote in the upcoming election. I felt our movement needed to remain non-partisan and attempt to influence policy makers across the board. I also moved the Council of Canadians away from its nationalist roots, to one critiquing economic globalization, making common cause with people and communities struggling for justice around the world. I would point out to Mel that not all aggressive corporations were American and remind him that Canada’s mining companies operating in the global South have the worst reputation in the world for human rights and environmental violations.

Where we never differed was in our views on free trade and how these deals serve the interests of transnational corporations and limit the right of governments to protect workers, communities or the environment. Those who extol the benefits of NAFTA can never explain the dramatic loss of manufacturing jobs, the growing income gap or Canada’s continued trade deficit since that deal was signed.

A recent poll found that only one in four Canadians support NAFTA, and resistance to the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is very strong in Europe. Both major U.S. parties now oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a deal Mel was fighting right up to the end of his life.

Mel Hurtig’s passion for justice never left him. I love the fact that hours before his death in a Vancouver hospital, his daughters, Barbara, Jane, Gillian and Leslie, told their father that the Inquery into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women had finally been announced. Mel smiled and said, “Bravo! It’s about time.”

Mel’s legacy is his challenge to all of us who live in this country: if, with all our natural wealth, financial resources and educated population, we in Canada cannot create a truly just and sustainable society, who can? His spirit lives on to guide us on this path.

In honour of the family’s wishes, a memorial fund has been set up to celebrate Mel Hurtig’s life and legacy. If you would like to make a donation, please call us at 1-800-387-7177, visit www.canadians/mel or mail your gift to 300–251 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3.
Chapter Contacts

The Council of Canadians appreciates the energy and dedication of our chapter activists. If you are interested in joining a chapter please see the contacts list below, or get in touch with the regional office closest to you. For more information on the Council's chapters, visit www.canadians.org or call us at 1-800-387-7177.

Atlantic
Organizing Office
211-2099 Gottingen St.
Halifax NS B3K 3B2
902-422-7811 1-977-772-7811
Regional Organizer
Angela Giles
agiles@canadians.org
Organizing Assistant
Roxan Tress
rtress@canadians.org

New Brunswick
Fredericton, NB
Caroline Lubbe-O'Arcy
506-454-5119
markandcaroline@gmail.com

Kent County, NB
Denise Melanson
506-523-9467
coc.kentcounty.nb@gmail.com

Moncton, NB
Barbara Dugley
506-521-5479
cocomrctnb@gmail.com

Saint John, NB
Leticia Adair
506-633-0398
ladn@nb.aol.com

Newfoundland and Labrador
St. Johns, NL
Jimena Martinez
stjohns@canadians.org

Nova Scotia
Inverness County, NS
Johanna Padell
902-787-2753
oco.inverness@gmail.com

North Shore, NS
Berta Gaulke
902-899-6220
nsncc@rogers.com

South Shore, NS
Marion Moore
902-527-2928
southshoreassoc@gmail.com

Prince Edward Island
Charlottetown, PEI
Marion White
902-677-2248
mlwhite@eastlink.ca

Ontario-Quebec-Nunavut
Organizing Office
202-609 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M5G 1X5
416-979-5554 1-800-208-7156
Regional Organizer
Mark Calzavara
mcalzavara@canadians.org
Organizing Assistant
Rachel Small
rs@mail@canadians.org

Ontario
Brookeville, ON
Barb Riesbery
613-845-3738
barb.riesbery@myhighspeed.ca
Centre Wellington, ON (NEW)
Diane Ballantyne
519-766-8863
cwcouncil@fcfcanadians@gmail.com
Guelph, ON
Norah Chomat
519-823-9601
norah.chomat@hotmail.com
www.coc-guelph.ca
Hamilton, ON
Ed Reeves
905-389-7887
d.ed.reeves@yahoo.ca
www.coc.willow.ca
London, ON
Robert Cory
519-601-2053
info@londonscouncilofcanadians.ca
www.londonscouncilofcanadians.ca
Mississippi Mills, ON (NEW)
Star Madonna
613-454-1685
star.madonna@coxmail.com
Northumberland, ON
Kimberly Weggel Fett
567-438-0124
kimberly_ann_66@yahoo.com
Peterborough-Kawartha, ON
Roy Brady
705-745-2446
rbrady@coxco.ca
www.peterborough-kawartha.org
Quinte, ON (NEW)
Lynne Rochon
rochonlynne@gmail.com
South Niagara, ON
Flinna McMurian
905-788-0756
fmcnunavut@coxco.ca
Sudbury, ON
Andre Clement
705-522-4813
andrecl@councilcanadians.org
Thunder Bay, ON
Heather Stowell
807-683-5429
tbytoc@gmail.com
www.tbytoc.org
Windsor-Essex, ON
Doug Hayes
519-335-8319
dhayes1880@rogers.com

Quebec
Montreal, QC
Abel Morant
540-371-2529
aprimoc.qc.montréal@gmail.com
Pravites-NWT
Organizing Office
#602-Westcor Building
1223 3rd Street
Edmonton, AB T5N 4Y9
780-429-4500 1-877-792-4500
Regional Organizer
Birgitta DePepe
bddepepe@canadians.org
St. John's, NL
Diane Stowers
506-222-8777
www.canadians.org

Winnipeg, MB
Mary Robinson
204-963-5416
www.canadianswinnipeg.com

Saskatchewan
Prince Albert, SK
Rick Sawal
306-922-3851
rsawal@winel2003.com

Quill Plains, SK
Elaine Hughes
306-327-4901
bybach@asktel.net
Regina, SK
Jim Elliott
306-352-4804
ocw@accesscomm.ca

Saskatoon, SK
David Greenfield
306-222-8520
cosaskatoon@gmail.com

British Columbia and Yukon
Organizing Office
700-207 West Hastings St.
Vancouver BC, V6B 1Y7
604-688-8845 1-888-566-3888
Regional Organizer
Hajjup Grewall
hgrewall@canadians.org
Organizing Assistant
Au Klein
aiken@canadians.org

British Columbia
Campbell River, BC
Richard Hagensen
250-286-3019
ekool6kool@telus.net

Chilliwack, BC
Daniel Coulter
604-137-2852
chilliwackcouncil@canadians.org

Comox Valley, BC
Kathie Woodley
250-314-4606
councilcanadians@gmail.com
www.comoxcanadians.org

Cowichan Valley, BC
Donna Cameron
250-748-2444
dcameron@telus.net

Delta-Richmond, BC
Lynn Armstrong
778-835-2546
lyndaلس@gmail.com

Golden, BC
Trevor Hamre
250-344-4608
thamre@hotmail.com

Kamloops, BC
Annie Strong
250-770-2251
karin@canadians.org

Kelowna, BC
Karen Abramson
250-769-1970
karenh@canadians.org

Mid-Island/Nanaimo, BC
Bill Eddie
250-758-0218
be@e-dv.com
www.midislandcanadians.com

Nelson-West Kootenays, BC
Sandra Nelsen
250-352-5274
sgnelsen@shaw.ca

Port Alberni, BC
Colin M. Frazer
co.cpt.alberni@gmail.com

Powell River, BC
Patricia Cockersedge
250-485-5409
pcckersedge@telus.net

Surrey-Langley-White Rock, BC
Contact regional office

Terrace, BC
Bruce Budgood
250-635-6244
bbudgood@telus.net

Vancouver-Burnaby, BC
Penny Tilby
250-263-1005
ptilby@telus.net
www.vancouverone.ca

Victoria, BC
Barb Mitchell-Pollock
250-220-5355
info@vicosa.canadians.org
www.vicosa.canadians.org

Williams Lake, BC
Keith Munroe
250-806-9099
williamslakeco@shaw.ca
www.williamslakecouncil@canadians.org
The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Here's my donation to keep this work going strong:

$10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] $200 [ ] My choice _______

[ ] Make this a monthly gift!

I would like to donate by:

[ ] Cheque made payable to The Council of Canadians (for monthly enclose your cheque marked “Void”)

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex

Card Number ________________________________

Expiry date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________________ Prov _____ Postal code ________

Phone ________________________________

Email ________________________________

Please mail this card to:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Prefer to donate online? Visit www.canadians.org

*Due to our political advocacy work, donations are not tax deductible.

Water is not a source of profit

Many parts of southern Ontario and British Columbia have recently faced drought conditions. Yet Nestlé, a giant bottled water corporation, continues to pump millions of litres of water from watersheds in Wellington County, Ontario and Hope, British Columbia.

Groundwater resources are finite. Droughts, climate change and over-extraction continue to impact our limited water sources. At this pace, communities will not have enough for their future needs.

Water is a human right, commons and a public trust, to be shared, protected, carefully managed and enjoyed by all who live around it – not a source of profit.

Let's stop Nestlé from profiting from water. Together, we can ensure our water is protected for generations to come.

Visit www.canadians.org/nestle and pledge to boycott Nestlé!

Like what you read?

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Get a FREE copy of Maude Barlow's new book Boiling Point when you:

Start a monthly gift of $5 or more

OR increase your current monthly gift by $5 or more

OR make a single gift of $75 or more.

Like what you read?

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Here’s my donation to keep this work going strong:

$10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] $200 [ ] My choice _______

[ ] Make this a monthly gift!

I would like to donate by:

[ ] Cheque made payable to The Council of Canadians (for monthly enclose your cheque marked “Void”)

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex

Card Number ________________________________

Expiry date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________________ Prov _____ Postal code ________

Phone ________________________________

Email ________________________________

Please mail this card to:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Prefer to donate online? Visit www.canadians.org

*Due to our political advocacy work, donations are not tax deductible.

Like what you read?

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Here’s my donation to keep this work going strong:

$10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] $200 [ ] My choice _______

[ ] Make this a monthly gift!

I would like to donate by:

[ ] Cheque made payable to The Council of Canadians (for monthly enclose your cheque marked “Void”)

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex

Card Number ________________________________

Expiry date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________________ Prov _____ Postal code ________

Phone ________________________________

Email ________________________________

Please mail this card to:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Prefer to donate online? Visit www.canadians.org

*Due to our political advocacy work, donations are not tax deductible.

Like what you read?

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Here’s my donation to keep this work going strong:

$10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] $200 [ ] My choice _______

[ ] Make this a monthly gift!

I would like to donate by:

[ ] Cheque made payable to The Council of Canadians (for monthly enclose your cheque marked “Void”)

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex

Card Number ________________________________

Expiry date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________________ Prov _____ Postal code ________

Phone ________________________________

Email ________________________________

Please mail this card to:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Prefer to donate online? Visit www.canadians.org

*Due to our political advocacy work, donations are not tax deductible.

Like what you read?

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Here’s my donation to keep this work going strong:

$10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] $200 [ ] My choice _______

[ ] Make this a monthly gift!

I would like to donate by:

[ ] Cheque made payable to The Council of Canadians (for monthly enclose your cheque marked “Void”)

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex

Card Number ________________________________

Expiry date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________________ Prov _____ Postal code ________

Phone ________________________________

Email ________________________________

Please mail this card to:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Prefer to donate online? Visit www.canadians.org

*Due to our political advocacy work, donations are not tax deductible.

Like what you read?

The Council of Canadians operates with no corporate donations or government funding, and always has. Our public advocacy work is proudly 100 per cent independent and sustained by generous donations from people like you.

Here’s my donation to keep this work going strong:

$10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] $200 [ ] My choice _______

[ ] Make this a monthly gift!

I would like to donate by:

[ ] Cheque made payable to The Council of Canadians (for monthly enclose your cheque marked “Void”)

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex

Card Number ________________________________

Expiry date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________________ Prov _____ Postal code ________

Phone ________________________________

Email ________________________________

Please mail this card to:
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Prefer to donate by phone? Call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.
Prefer to donate online? Visit www.canadians.org

*Due to our political advocacy work, donations are not tax deductible.