

Canadian Perspectives



On the Road With Maude Barlow

Summer is here – it’s a time for reflection on a hectic season that just passed and another coming up!

Over the winter and spring, your Council team was working hard on your behalf. We developed a great toolkit to help individuals and groups promote a national pharmacare plan in their communities and workplaces. We worked with allies in Mexico and the U.S. to promote our vision of a just and fair trade agreement for the continent and continued to work with allies in Europe to oppose the Canada-EU Economic and Trade Agreement.

We furthered the campaign to have municipalities, faith-based groups and others become Blue Communities and pledge to protect water as a human right and public trust. We fought water-threatening projects such as fracking and big dams, to name just two, and launched a boycott of Nestlé in our challenge to stop that company from exporting precious groundwater sources. We supported local campaigns against municipal water privatization. We fought new pipelines that would carry tar sands

bitumen laced with toxic chemicals across thousands of waterways and challenged the Trudeau government to live up to its commitment to the Paris climate agreement.

Our chapters continue to do amazing things! They have never been more engaged, making themselves heard on everything from public health care to continuing to fight for electoral reform. I am so grateful for their leadership, their vision and their commitment to a just Canada and world.

As an organization, we continue to work closely with local First Nations communities and support the amazing leadership so many have shown in these and other struggles.

I have been exceptionally busy – even for me! Besides continuing to speak out about the issues in *Boiling Point*, my book on Canada’s water crisis, I wrote a report on the threat free trade agreements pose to water protection laws and how they promote the commodification of the world’s water. I spoke at a large church in New York City for World Water Day, travelled to Berlin to

promote it becoming a Blue Community, toured B.C. on a pre-provincial election water awareness campaign, and shared my concerns about threats to the Great Lakes at a large gathering in Chicago.

Everywhere I have gone, I have met with wonderful people fighting to protect their local environmental heritage and public services from the onslaught of economic globalization. This has never felt as urgent as we hear more from U.S. President Donald Trump and his promise to put “America first.”

On a final note, I am shifting my role slightly at the Council of Canadians, moving into the important position of Honorary Chairperson. I will still be front and centre and involved in campaigns and with our chapters, working with you on the important issues that we face. Please join me in welcoming Leo Broderick as the new Chairperson of the Council of Canadians’ Board of Directors and Andrea Furlong as Vice Chair.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your ongoing support.

Maude Barlow

Maude Barlow,
Honorary Chairperson
The Council of Canadians