

Chapter Action Updates

Members from several Council of Canadians chapters recently took part in Unifor's town hall on a people's agenda for trade



Council of Canadians' chapter activists across the country continue to be busy on key political issues of the day to protect water and public health care, challenge unfair trade deals and climate change, and to stand up for democracy. Here are just a few examples of their recent actions:

Stop Kinder Morgan

Chapters have been active in the fight to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline. They have been rallying at the constituency offices of Liberal Members of Parliament across the country, calling on provincial politicians – including Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe – to give up the pipeline and commit to renewable energy, while calling on other provincial politicians in British Columbia government to stand strong, respect Indigenous rights, and continue to oppose the project. Chapter members have also been involved in sign-on letters, posting on social media, co-sponsoring public forums, engaging in civil disobedience training, and being present on Burnaby Mountain where the pipeline will traverse. This fight will only grow more intense now that the Trudeau government has committed public dollars to buy the pipeline.

Battling climate change

Chapter members have written submissions opposing Bill C-69, proposed legislation that misses the opportunity to restore protections to all lakes and rivers, gives more power to industry-captured offshore petroleum boards, and doesn't recognize the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the Atlantic provinces,

chapters have been raising awareness and working to stop the federal government's approval of BP drilling for oil and gas offshore of Nova Scotia. The drilling would violate Indigenous rights and pose a threat to water and the climate. Chapters are finding ways to promote renewable energies and the need to transition to a carbon-free economy.

A people's trade agenda

In April, nine southern Ontario chapters: South Niagara, Hamilton, Halton, Guelph, Peterborough-Kawarthas, Windsor-Essex, Northumberland, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto, gathered in Hamilton for a two-day conference focused on a people's agenda for trade. The public forum featured Council of Canadians Honorary Chairperson Maude Barlow and included a full day of workshops focused on information sharing and strategizing.

The Northumberland Chapter and the PEI Chapter, through the Trade Justice PEI network, have also expressed their concerns about trade directly to the federal government, including a demand for the current negotiating text for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to be released.

Blue Communities

Chapters continue to promote the Blue Communities Project, which is taking off across Canada and around the world. Inspired by Berlin, Germany becoming a Blue Community, the Council's London, Ontario chapter is committed to turning their community "blue" too. The Montreal chapter has now had two meetings with the city councillor responsible for water and will continue to move forward with

its efforts to turn Montreal "blue." The Brandon-Westman chapter made a presentation to their city council in March and expected an answer back by the end of June. And despite the Campbell River city council refusing the Campbell River chapter's request for their municipality to be designated a Blue Community, the chapter is committed to finding ways to move the initiative forward.

Fish farms

Pacific region chapters have been working to stop fish farms. The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs says the B.C. government committed to giving First Nations a say on whether the tenures of the 18 fish farms on their territories will be renewed when they expire in June of this year. The Comox Valley chapter prepared a package for Pacific region chapters and allies to use to lobby their MLAs to convince decision-makers to say no to the renewal of these permits. The Chilliwack chapter took part in a rally outside provincial government cabinet minister Adrian Dix's Vancouver-Kingsway office with this message. Unfortunately, despite all these efforts, the B.C. government announced fish farm tenures can continue. The new rules will require fish farm companies to obtain indigenous consent starting four years from now.

If you are interested in joining a Council of Canadians chapter near you, please check out our Chapter Contacts on page 11, call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177, or visit our website at canadians.org/chapters. We can also help you start a chapter if there isn't already one in your community.

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.

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