



On the Road with Maude Barlow

Dear friends,

I hope this report finds you well. There is so much to update you on!

We are deep into the struggle to wean Canada off fossil fuels. Having been at the forefront of the successful campaign to stop the Energy East pipeline, our chapters and supporters are equally committed to the fight against Kinder Morgan. As well, we are right at the heart of the campaign to stop offshore drilling by British Petroleum in the waters off Nova Scotia.

It is important to say that we strongly support just transition plans to jobs in renewable and sustainable energies for workers whose livelihoods depend on their jobs in the oil sector.

We have all become dependent on fossil fuels and the plastic they produce that is killing our lakes and oceans, and we all have a responsibility to make major changes.

With your help and support, the Council of Canadians continues to push for the reinstatement of the water laws gutted by the Harper government. The failure of the Trudeau government to honour its promise to do so is baffling. We are greatly heartened, however, by the growing awareness of Canadians of the need to protect source water with good laws and continue to place a priority on working in solidarity with First Nations



Maude Barlow, Honorary Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, speaks to people attending a rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to voice their opposition to the federal government's plan to buy the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

in their demand for clean water and sanitation services in their communities.

We have been deeply involved in the NAFTA issue as our government tries to find a path ahead with a U.S. President who keeps changing his mind. President Trump's recent insistence to impose tariffs on Canadian steel has killed any renegotiation, and this is a good thing. The longer NAFTA talks take, the more likely there will be progressives elected in Mexico (which has happened) and the U.S. This will improve the chances of getting a NAFTA deal that truly puts the interests of people and the planet ahead of corporate ones.

I am greatly excited by the report on the all-party Parliamentary committee that is proposing a full pharmacare plan for Canadians. It has been a long time coming and a campaign very dear to our hearts as drugs necessary for basic health are out of reach for millions of Canadians.

Our most pressing issue right now is the fight to have the government fulfill another election promise to repeal Harper's so-called "Fair" Elections Act that made it harder for some Canadians to vote. These rules cannot be allowed to stand and we urgently need your support to ensure they don't.

On the plus side – and there are many – our Blue Communities Project is sweeping Europe. Berlin in Germany and Thessaloniki in Greece are the two latest cities to go "blue," pledging to promote water as a human right, protect it as a public trust, and phase out bottled water in municipal buildings and at municipal events. Here in Canada, the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph has also become a Blue Community, and the concept is growing within faith-based communities.

My personal travels have, as always, taken me across the country for town halls and chapter gatherings on these issues. I have attended conferences with like-minded allies in the U.S. and had the pleasure of promoting our agenda of just trade and the right to water in Germany, Spain and Greece.

As always, I am so grateful to you for your ongoing support and commitment. Thank you for making these important gains possible.

With hope and resolve,

Maude Barlow, Honorary Chairperson, The Council of Canadians