

Hope for a Better Canada through Monthly Giving

The Council of Canadians' work often depends on being able to react quickly and effectively to issues. Protecting lakes, rivers and drinking water, building opposition to harmful corporate trade deals, supporting communities fighting Big Oil pipelines and offshore drilling, and saving public health care from devastating cuts – none of it would be possible without the generous donations of our supporters.

Our monthly giving program, The Canada Plan, plays an integral part in providing the needed stability for the Council to respond to urgent events, plan for the day-to-day needs of our core campaigns, and fight for strong policies in support of clean water, fair trade, green energy and climate justice, public health care, and a vibrant democracy.

Judith Hamm, a long-time dedicated supporter of the Council of Canadians, spoke with *Canadian Perspectives* recently about her decision to become a monthly donor.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I moved to Vancouver in my early twenties and fell in love with the west coast of B.C. I raised my family out here and lived on Vancouver Island for awhile in Nanaimo, then moved to Grand Forks. My husband and I are both retired. I volunteer at the local food co-op and am the secretary of the Grand Forks Amateur Radio Club. I care about eating organic food and avoiding pesticides. I have always been a nature lover and a hiker and someone who cared about wildlife, plants and animals. In more recent years it's been clear how many plants and animals we are losing and how the climate is changing.



Judith Hamm (right) enjoys the benefits of being a monthly donor to the Council of Canadians.

What issues are closest to your heart?

Water as a human right is one of the issues that is closest to my heart and I appreciate Maude Barlow's work in this area. There is too much disparity in the world with some people having an abundance of water and the complete lack of water for others. Most of us want to live in a healthy, clean environment, to enjoy the wildlife and the forests. It seems like the average person has less power to control their environment and their world. Climate change and big business, like Kinder Morgan and its pipeline, I feel, are some of the most threatening issues that we face today. They are deeply connected to the environment and big business.

What encouraged you to join the Council of Canadians?

I read an article about Maude Barlow and about her father passing away and how she was determined to continue his legacy of activism and upholding Canada's social responsibilities. I remember feeling really impressed and I still remember it to this day.

What continues to inspire you to give today?

Canada is very precious to me and I see the huge influence that the U.S. can have on Canada. It's very important to me for Canada to remain independent of outside influences. I think that's a role that

the Council of Canadians plays trying to face some of these issues head on – and helps us to keep our values and our country. It's easy to lose them.

Why do you prefer to give on a monthly basis to the Council?

I find it easier to give monthly. I also do understand that it helps the organization to plan and make the best use of their resources. It is a two-pronged – I do it because I know the organization needs a reliable source of income and also the Council receives more from me because it's a small amount frequently. I probably wouldn't have that amount in one lump to donate, so this enables me to spread out my donation.

What would you say to someone considering donating to the Council of Canadians?

I would encourage someone to donate monthly because it is easy for the donor and most beneficial for the organization. One of the things I appreciate so much about the Council of Canadians is that it takes on these critical issues and helps us to understand them along the way. By giving to the Council of Canadians I can worry less about the future for our grandchildren and the next generation.

To become a monthly contributor, contact Dana Chapeskie in Member Services at 1-800-387-7177, ext 254 or email dchapeskie@canadians.org