



On the Road with Maude Barlow

Dear friends,

The fall and winter of 2018 have been as full as any I can remember. We are busy on so many fronts, which you will read about in these pages.

We have been on high alert around Bill C-69, legislation that replaces the three water laws gutted under the Harper government, and we have expressed grave concern that certain pipeline projects may be exempted from key regulations protecting water.

We continue to fight Nestlé and are working with local First Nations of the Grand River in Ontario to expose the injustice of the theft of their water by this transnational water hunter. We are also promoting Blue Communities in Canada and are excited to announce that Montreal will become a Blue Community on World Water Day 2019!

We also continue our campaigns against both major bitumen pipelines, particularly Kinder Morgan, fracking in the western provinces and the threat of re-opening fracking operations in New Brunswick, LNG projects in B.C., and the offshore drilling permits the Trudeau government has granted BP off of Nova Scotia's south shore.

The trade file has kept us tremendously busy. We followed the NAFTA/USMCA negotiations closely and put out regular

information and action alerts to keep our members and the public informed. We worked closely with allies in the U.S. and Mexico and published several major reports on the energy provisions of both agreements. We were widely quoted in the media on the talks and the final deal. We also sounded the alarm that the USMCA will allow U.S. milk containing the growth hormone rBGH to be sold in Canada without warning labels.

We had a huge success in our campaign to have Harper's so called "Fair Elections Act," with its open intent of voter suppression, overturned. We and the Canadian Federation of Students took the Harper government to court over this law and then lobbied the Trudeau government hard on the need for a replacement. In December, the government announced that it would adopt its electoral reform bill, which includes restoring voter information cards as identification, in time for the next federal election. This is a very important success story for a campaign that spanned many years.

In September, I spoke to 500 enthusiastic people in Guelph about our fight against Nestlé. From there I visited several communities in Nova Scotia to support their opposition to the offshore drilling permits given to BP, the company responsible for the terrible oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

October took me to Quito, Ecuador with the Global Alliance on the Rights of Nature for a deeply moving conference with many local indigenous leaders from struggles in the Amazon.

Then it was on to Rome to fight the Canada-EU trade deal, as Italy is still opposed to the corporate court that deal includes, and Zurich, where they are

fighting a new law that would promote water privatization. Then on to Augsburg, Munich and Berlin in Germany, for moving ceremonies as each became a Blue Community, vowing to protect water and the right to water forever.

November took me to the Blue Mountain Center in upstate New York to meet with American and international allies on solidarity and cross-border cooperation and to Toronto to speak at the annual gathering of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

In December, I had the great honour of presenting a keynote to the annual gathering of the Nobel Prize in Stockholm, Sweden where each year they choose a "Dialogue" theme and invite speakers from around the world. This year's topic was water and I was able to inject the human rights story into what was otherwise a fascinating and important, but mostly scientific, analysis.

None of this would be possible without you, our members, supporters, chapters, and our hard-working staff and board. Thank you all.

If you haven't seen it already, keep an eye on your mailbox for your 2019 Supporter Renewal package. You can use it, or the coupon conveniently placed in this issue, to make your renewal contribution to the Council of Canadians so that we may continue this vitally important work for social and economic justice together.

With hope and resolve,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maude Barlow".

Maude Barlow, Honorary Chairperson, The Council of Canadians