Great Lakes Need Great Friends

5 Things you can do to protect the Great Lakes

Protecting the future of the Great Lakes, which provide life and livelihood to more than 40 million people in Canada and the United States, is urgently important in a world where we are running out of clean, safe water. We must all work together to ensure the Lakes are declared and managed as commons, a public trust and protected bioregion.

For the Great Lakes, this means that the millions of people who enjoy and depend on the waters as a source of drinking water, for activities such as boating and fishing, and rely on them for commercial purposes all have an interest and a collective responsibility for their future protection.

Here are five things you can do to protect the future of the Great Lakes:

1. **Send a message to Premier Kathleen Wynne** asking that commons and public trust principles be included in the Great Lakes Protection Act, and ask your local member of Parliament for federal legislation that acknowledges the importance of Great Lakes’ waters and recognizes them as a commons.

2. **Say “no” to a frack pipe to Toronto.** Enbridge and Union Gas are petitioning the Ontario Energy Board for new and expanded natural gas infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area. Tell the Ontario government that you don’t want a frack pipe from the U.S. Marcellus shale to Toronto that would threaten the Great Lakes. Find more information at www.canadians.org/fracking

3. **No tar sands to – or through – the Great Lakes.** Enbridge has applied to increase capacity of Line 67, a pipeline that runs from Edmonton to Superior, Wisconsin at the western tip of Lake Superior. Approval of this project could pave the way for more tar sands oil to be transported by pipeline or

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the construction of an oil dock barge on the Great Lakes. Contact your local, provincial and federal government representatives and tell them you want a ban on tar sands being transported to – and through – the Great Lakes. For more information, visit www.canadians.org/greatlakes

4. **Take action for water in your community.** Whether it’s fighting against water pollution or bulk water withdrawals, nuclear waste dumps, wetland destruction, sewage disposal, a refinery or polluting industry, or other threat to the Great Lakes – get involved and make a difference! We will help map these local efforts on our website. E-mail us at inquiries@canadians.org to share your story.

5. **Join the Council of Canadians.** By becoming a member or making a donation, you can help support the campaign to protect the Great Lakes forever.

Severe pollution, the withdrawal of large amounts of water and other abuses have put the Great Lakes in grave danger. We need a sustained and urgent effort to save the Great Lakes from abuse and mismanagement. We must demand that public representatives on both sides of the border treat the Lakes as a commons – something we all share – and as one integrated watershed. We all have a role to play to ensure the Lakes are healthy now, and for future generations.

Protecting the future of the Great Lakes is in all of our hands. When communities come together with passion and purpose, they can change political priorities and shape a better future for our shared water. Together, we can build a new Great Lakes commons vision that centres on people and the environment over industry and commodification.

For more information about the Council of Canadians and our campaign for the Great Lakes, visit www.canadians.org/greatlakes, or call us toll free at 1-800-387-7177.

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