



Council of Canadians supporters and staff take to the streets during the Peoples' Social Forum in Ottawa

On the Road with Maude Barlow

Dear friends,

As summer comes to a close a busy fall and winter season beckons. Much as I have spent time with friends and family this summer, it has also been busy on the work front! I travelled to Haliburton Highlands in Ontario to support Environment Haliburton in its quest to protect the precious waters of this region.

In June, I oversaw the creation of the first Blue Community in South America. The gorgeous town of Cambuquira, Brazil, is trying to protect its precious mineral water heritage from being taken over by Nestlé. Nearby São Lourenço was once a tourist destination famous for its mineral waters and waterpark, but Nestlé has taken up so much of this precious water for bottled water exports the streams and fountains have been badly compromised.

In July, I joined the Council's Windsor chapter in a convoy that brought 1,000 litres of clean public water to the inner city residents of Detroit whose water has been brutally turned off in anticipation of the privatization of its water services. I had visited the city in May and helped devise a plan with the Detroit Peoples' Water Board to report these abuses to the United Nations as a violation of the human right to water and sanitation, an act that brought a lot of sudden media interest in the U.S. and other countries.

July also saw a visit to the lovely Denman Island in British Columbia for its annual

literary festival and a keynote to the PSAC-affiliated Union of Canadian Transportation Employees Triennial Convention in Vancouver. August in Ottawa provided the perfect backdrop for the highly successful People's Social Forum, which the Council helped organize. At the end of the month, I attended our alternative forum at the First Ministers' meeting in Charlottetown, where we took the message to the premiers to fight for public health care in the face of the Harper government's retreat from medicare.

Our September gathering of international water activists in Toronto was a huge success and helped us plan our water justice work for the next several years. And I went on a four-city tour of Germany to promote the publication of my book *Blue Future* in German.

Coming up are round two of the health care tour with CUPE's Paul Moist, and the Atlantic arm of our Energy East tour.

And our annual general meeting, which will be held in Hamilton October 3-5, will celebrate our solidarity with unions and the need to collectively work together to defeat the Harper government and replace it with a government not hostile to its own citizens. I hope to see many of you there! So as you see, we are busier than ever. We are fighting bad trade deals like TPP and CETA and promoting public health

care for all and a renewed role for the federal government. We are opposing mega pipelines, the expansion of the tar sands and fracking, while promoting an alternative energy future for the country and planet. We are working to protect the Great Lakes as a public trust while fighting for water justice at home and internationally. We are exposing the Harper government's anti-democratic moves such as election fraud and the new legislation that would make it even harder to expose such fraud in the future.

Sometimes it can get frustrating, as we seem to be fighting on all fronts at once. But then I stop and ask myself, what would this country look like if it were not for the Council of Canadians and the many other activist groups and communities who stand up and say "no!" to this government's policies?

And that brings me to thanking you, our wonderful supporters. None of this would be possible without your belief in this work and your faith in the Council. For this support, I thank you from the bottom of my (busy) heart!

Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians.