



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.

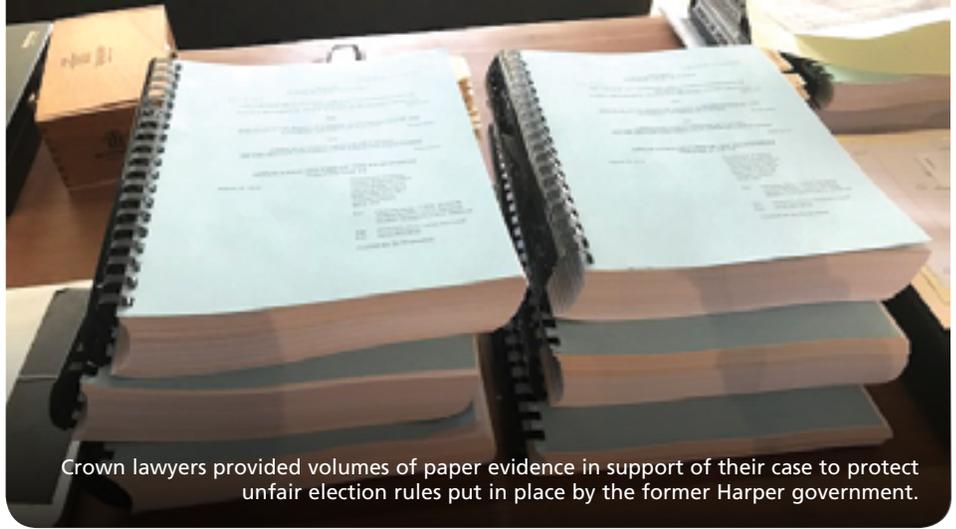
As always, I am so grateful to you for your ongoing support and commitment. Thank you for making these important gains possible.

With hope and resolve,

Maude Barlow, Honorary Chairperson, The Council of Canadians

Defending Democracy: We are heading back to court

By Andrea Furlong



The Council of Canadians and the Canadian Federation of Students are preparing to go to court to defend Canadians' ability to access their right to vote.

The Council of Canadians defends the most fundamental right in a democratic society – the right to vote. We launched the Charter challenge to the former Harper government's so-called "Fair" Elections Act because it would make it harder for students, Indigenous peoples, seniors and others who have difficulty proving their identity and residence to cast a ballot.

Repealing elements of the *Fair Elections Act* will be critical for restoring the democratic rights of Canadians the Harper government took away.

With the generous support of people like you, in November 2014, the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Federation of Students filed an application in Ontario Superior Court challenging the Harper government's Fair Elections Act because:

- It makes it more difficult for the Chief Electoral Officer to communicate with Canadians about the electoral process and their right to vote.
- It strips the Chief Electoral Officer of their ability to authorize the Voter Information Card as a means for proving an elector's residence or identity.

- It diminishes the independence and accountability of the Commissioner of Canada Elections.
- It effectively eliminates vouching as a means for people without the necessary identification to obtain a ballot.

In November 2016, the Liberal government tabled Bill C-33. If it had been passed, this Bill would have addressed the democratic deficits in the Act. Discouragingly, there had been little progress until this April when the Liberal government introduced Bill C-76, which amends the Canada Elections Act and rolls Bill C-33 into this expanded piece of legislation. The problem is that Elections Canada has already said that even if Bill 76 proceeds smoothly – and that's a big "if" – there won't be time to fully implement its reforms. This is why our legal case is so important.

Charter challenge

We are committed to undoing the undemocratic parts of the Fair Elections Act and, with your continued generous support, we will move forward with the Charter challenge, which will be heard this October so it can be acted on before the October 2019 federal election.

In March, the federal government served the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Federation of Students with six volumes (more than 2,000 pages) of evidence. That evidence clearly shows the Trudeau government's intent to

defend the Harper government's voter suppression measures, notwithstanding Bill 76. We filed our evidence in response in May, including a report from a leading U.S. expert explaining the origins of the voter suppression measures enacted by Republican-controlled U.S. states, which served as the prototype for the Fair Elections Act.

During the last election campaign, the Liberals promised to stand up for every Canadian's right to vote. The Liberals said they would be taking measures to maintain the openness, transparency and accountability of our democracy. To that end, we are calling on the Trudeau government to stand by its commitment to enhance the integrity of our electoral system. The Liberals need to address the most egregious elements of the so-called Fair Elections Act by:

- Expanding the Chief Electoral Officer's mandate to include public education.
- Reversing changes that disallowed the use of a voter information card as a piece of eligible identification at.
- Undoing the changes that disallowed one voter to vouch for another.
- Granting more independence to the Commissioner of Canada Elections.

It's time for the Trudeau government to act and end voter suppression.

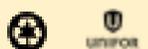
Andrea Furlong is the interim Executive Director of the Council of Canadians.

CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES
EDITOR Jan Malek
DESIGN Amy Thompson
PRINTING Plantagenet Printing

Past issues of *Canadian Perspectives* are available at www.canadians.org.
Publications Mail Agreement
No. 40065620

THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1X3
Email: inquiries@canadians.org
Tel: 1-800-387-7177

THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS
LE CONSEIL DES CANADIENS
ACTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE / AGIR POUR LA JUSTICE SOCIALE



Time for a Water Policy That's "True D'eau"

By Emma Lui



The Trudeau government failed to reinstate protections for the majority of lakes and rivers in Canada new water and environmental legislation which gives more power to energy corporations.

Despite the intensifying opposition to the Kinder Morgan pipeline, the Trudeau government is pushing through legislation that would continue to grease the wheels for energy projects.

The Trudeau government's recent announcement of its intent to purchase the Kinder Morgan pipeline, which runs from Alberta's tar sands to B.C., has solidified the government's position as a champion of extreme energy projects, no matter the cost to water or our environment.

In early February, the Liberal government introduced Bill C-69, An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, which proposes to make sweeping changes to Canada's water, environmental and energy legislation.

Buried in the lengthy Bill, which is more than 400 pages long, are changes to the Navigation Protection Act (NPA), to be named the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA). Despite the Liberal government's commitment to restore protections for water and implement modern safeguards, the legislation does neither.

Yet the Bill was moved quickly through the different stages. The Trudeau government introduced a "time allocation" motion at the end of February that shut down debate on the Bill after just two days in the House of Commons.

In March, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development invited witnesses to present comments about the Bill. Besides ministers and government officials, Big Oil associations like the Canadian

Association of Petroleum Producers and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association were some of the first witnesses to present, followed by environmental groups, Indigenous nations and academics.

The Liberal-dominated environment committee shut debate down once again during the clause by clause review. The Bill came back to the House of Commons to go through report stage and third reading where the Liberals have introduced more time allocation motions to shut down debate a third and fourth time. Members of Parliament narrowly voted to pass the Bill in June despite democratic debate and scrutiny being stifled at every turn.

Under the new CNWA, pipelines and powerlines are still exempt. Pipelines like Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline, which crosses 1,355 waterways, would still not be regulated under this proposed Act. Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna has stated the Kinder Morgan pipeline would have been approved under the new Act.

The CNWA also defines "navigable waters" more narrowly. West Coast Environmental Law has pointed out: "While the courts have defined navigable waters as including any river or lake that is deep enough to float a boat, the new definition would only include rivers and lakes that are actually or 'reasonably likely' to be used for commercial, recreational or Indigenous navigation and where currently: there is public access (including by navigating along a river or other water body); there are multiple owners of the land along the river or lake; or the federal or provincial government is the owner of lands along the water body."

In a recent op-ed, Indigenous lawyer Pam Palmater and Council of Canadians Honorary Chairperson Maude Barlow pointed out that while the proposed CNWA includes a section on Indigenous Peoples of Canada and references Indigenous traditional knowledge, the legislation falls short of requiring free, prior and informed consent as required by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The changes could also allow B.C.'s illegal fracking dams to be built without review. In 2017, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reported that dozens of unauthorized dams have been built in northern B.C. "to trap hundreds of millions of gallons of water used in its controversial fracking operations," including some that were built by the energy corporation Petronas without government approval.

The Council of Canadians is calling for much stronger water protection legislation that protects all lakes, rivers and watersheds and upholds Canada's obligation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Council is also calling for the appointment of a federal water minister position to advocate for the protection of water.

With record-dry weather, flooding and other climate-induced weather impacts from coast-to-coast-to-coast, the Trudeau government must take bold action to protect water for current and future generations.

Read more about the Council of Canadians' campaigns to protect water at canadians.org/water.

Emma Lui is the Water Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.

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

NAFTA 2.0: For people or polluters?

This following is an excerpt of the report *NAFTA 2.0: For people or polluters?* produced jointly by the Council of Canadians, Greenpeace Mexico and Sierra Club U.S. It was written by leading economists from each of the three NAFTA countries and presents original research and analyses on the climate implications of NAFTA.

Communities across North America are enduring falling wages and rising climate threats. Instead of reducing these problems, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is exacerbating them. NAFTA was written before broad awareness of climate change, and negotiated with input from fossil fuel executives, not workers, climate scientists, or climate-impacted communities. Predictably, the negotiation prioritized the profits of multinational firms, not the well-being of working families who face increasing climate hazards. As a result, NAFTA includes an array of little-known rules that bind North America to fossil fuel dependency rather than supporting a just transition to a clean energy economy. NAFTA is an obstacle to climate progress.

After more than two decades of NAFTA, the deal is finally being renegotiated, offering an opportunity to invert its backwards priorities. Civil society organizations, academics, and legislators across North America have offered a litany of specific ideas for a more

equitable, climate-compatible deal. This time around, will negotiators prioritize the workers and communities that have been hardest hit by the fossil fuel economy, or the CEOs who profit from it?

The track record so far is not encouraging. While some important proposals for change reportedly sit on the negotiating table, many of NAFTA's handouts to corporate polluters remain untouched.

Even worse, negotiators are entertaining new corporate-backed rules for NAFTA 2.0 that would pose additional barriers to the bold climate action that science and justice demand. Such terms, if accepted, would be an exercise in climate denial, with long-lasting consequences for workers and communities across North America. We cannot shift to a clean energy future if a corporate trade deal tethers us to the fossil fuel past.

Climate-friendly NAFTA replacement

A new North American trade deal should close NAFTA's climate pollution loophole that allows corporations to evade climate policies by offshoring jobs and emissions.

If a trade deal allows corporations to cross borders, it also must ensure cross-border protections for workers and communities.

To prevent climate and other public interest policies from being challenged in private tribunals, NAFTA's replacement

must eliminate investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions. Corporations can use domestic courts, just like everyone else.

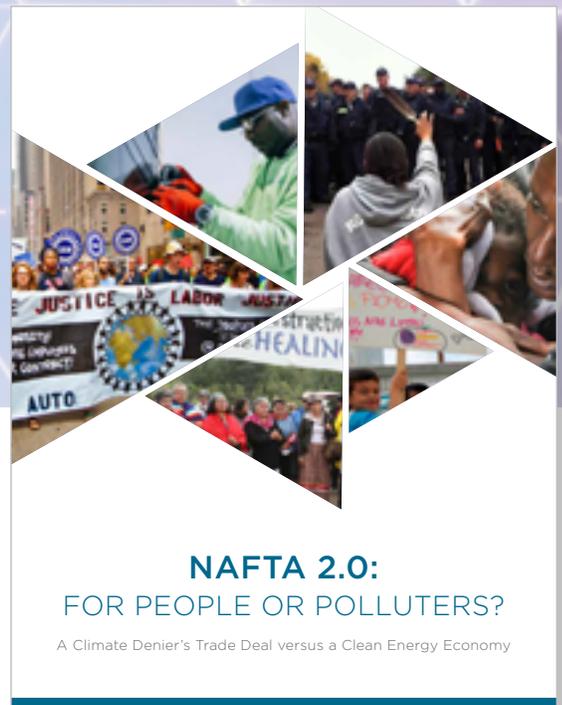
Instead of ISDS, a deal should encourage investments that are compatible with the public interest (e.g., not fossil fuels) by offering investors basic protections in exchange for meeting basic legal obligations.

The deal that replaces NAFTA should allow the governments of North America to swiftly phase out fossil fuel exports as they pursue a just transition to a clean energy economy.

That means deleting NAFTA's proportionality rule that locks in fossil fuel exports, climate pollution, and toxic practices like fracking and tar sands oil extraction.

NAFTA's renegotiation is long overdue. But we cannot afford to lock North America's communities into another multi-decade pact that ignores climate change. To replace NAFTA with a deal that protects people, today's negotiators should listen to the workers and communities on the front lines of climate change, not the corporations fueling it.

To obtain a full copy of *NAFTA 2.0: For people or polluters?* please call the Council of Canadians toll-free at 1-800-387-7177, or email us at inquiries@canadians.org





by Andrea Harden-Donahue

Resisting Big Oil's influence from coast-to-coast

A national debate is raging over extreme energy projects on Canada's west and east coasts, raising serious questions about how far the government is willing to go to facilitate business for the oil industry.

On the west coast, the Trudeau government recently announced its intention to buy Texas-based Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline using \$4.5 billion of public money. This is just the starting cost. Economist Robyn Allen says total costs could reach as high as \$20 billion. The pipeline plan will lead to the export of 890,000 barrels of crude every day from the Alberta tar sands through the Burrard Inlet.

On the east coast, offshore Nova Scotia, BP has begun drilling near Sable Island National Park. BP is the company behind the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the world's worst marine spill, which occurred in the Gulf of Mexico.

It took just 61 days for BP to spill in Atlantic waters, releasing 136,000 litres of synthetic drilling mud off the shore of Nova Scotia.

The reasons driving the Council of Canadians' opposition to these projects, the actions we take to resist them, and our vision of a better path forward, unite these campaigns on both sides of the country.

Indigenous consent

Building and sustaining relationships with Indigenous peoples at the forefront of challenging Big Oil's push for unlimited access to fossil fuel resources is a priority for the Council of Canadians.

Indigenous communities on the front lines of the impacts of the fossil fuel industry are demonstrating leadership and prioritizing the protection of water, land and our climate. We see this in examples such as the Secwepemc Tiny House movement along the Kinder Morgan pipeline route and the building of Kwekwecnewtwx, a traditional Watch House Indigenous Coast Salish members built 100 yards south of the Kinder Morgan oil facility in Burnaby.

Indigenous legal challenges are also a distinct threat to the interests of Big Oil. The federal government has a duty under Section 35 of Canada's

Constitution to consult First Nations in a meaningful way about issues and decisions that could affect their rights. This, and other legal rights, are the crux of the case seven First Nations are arguing before the Federal Court of Appeals, challenging the National Energy Board and federal approval of the Kinder Morgan pipeline. The court case could still halt the project in its tracks.

Water links

This work is intimately connected with the Council of Canadians' water campaign, where Maude Barlow's tireless efforts to put water protection at the forefront of decision making has created clear links with Indigenous water warriors.

We have worked hard to expose the heightened risks of spilled diluted bitumen in waterways. Diluted bitumen, the substance extracted from Alberta's tar sands, has proven to sink in water, making cleanup efforts far more difficult and expensive. The Council of Canadians has also shown corporations' track records of shirking their responsibilities not only to prevent disasters, but to clean up afterwards.

When in a climate hole, stop digging

Both the Kinder Morgan project and BP's plans to drill up to seven wells offshore Nova Scotia (test drilling is now underway) will help facilitate an increase in Canadian fossil fuel production at a time when our country – and the world – need to be going in the opposite direction.

New fossil fuel projects are not consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement.

While the world cannot transition off of fossil fuels overnight, there must be recognition that the sector is big enough. We need to get serious about minimizing the environmental and social impacts of existing fossil fuel production while we plan for a just transition to sustainable energy production and consumption. This is best done through community and government leadership. It should not be left to the whims of the market and the interests of Big Oil companies.

Evidence shows that investments in public transit, energy efficiency and renewable energies can generate more jobs than equivalent investments in fossil fuels. Every day, new examples emerge of communities – and even countries – headed in this direction, making decisions that benefit both people and the environment.

Fighting Big Oil's influence

Increasingly, people are asking why Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna, who campaigned as champions of the environment, approved the Kinder Morgan pipeline and BP drilling offshore Nova Scotia.

The immediate answer on Kinder Morgan is that Prime Minister Trudeau saw it as a trade-off for advancing the national climate plan. The logic here is akin to adopting an all-poutine diet to lose weight.

The more complicated answer lies in a long history spanning multiple governments provincially and federally, where the Big Oil lobby has had an undue influence on political direction.

Take, for example, how the Trudeau government backed down from methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) regulations after the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), Canada's foremost Big Oil lobby group, asked it to. Or the memos Greenpeace exposed finding Trudeau welcoming the election of U.S. President Donald Trump as positive news and embracing CAPP as a lobbying partner for TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

In the first four months after the federal election, Suncor, the country's biggest revenue-generating energy company, met with high-ranking federal officials at least 12 times.

All of these connections show the Trudeau government is building on the

former Harper government's record of listening to and propping up the oil and gas industry.

Oil production up, royalty revenue down

According to David Hughes' recent groundbreaking *Canada's Energy Outlook* report, while national oil production has increased 75 per cent since 2000 in Canada, royalty revenue from fossil fuels has dropped an astounding 63 per cent and corporate taxes have fallen more than 50 per cent.

Lobbying power and influence is a key reason why we've seen the Harper and Trudeau governments fail to make good on their respective promises to appropriately tax and regulate energy industries and phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Prime Minister Trudeau's plan to use public money to buy the Kinder Morgan pipeline entrenches this connection even more.

Community-building actions

With your generous support, the Council of Canadians is organizing public speaking events and protests, making government submissions, engaging in Indigenous solidarity, providing critical reports and information, and garnering media attention on these important issues. None of this would be possible without the help of people like you. Thank you for all that you do!

Andrea Harden-Donahue is the Energy and Climate Justice Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.



Can you chip in to help us fight Big Oil's influence?

Use the enclosed postage paid envelope to send back this form with your donation. Thank you!

YES – I want to help stop the Trudeau government from using public money to buy the Kinder Morgan pipeline and from allowing environmentally dangerous offshore drilling near Nova Scotia.

Here's my contribution to help:

I want to start a monthly contribution!

\$45 \$65 \$125 \$265 My choice \$ _____

Enclosed is my cheque made out to The Council of Canadians

OR

Visa Mastercard Amex

Card # _____ Expiry: ____/____

Signature: _____

Name on card (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Donate by phone at 1-800-387-7177 or online at www.canadians.org.

Due to the Council's political advocacy work donations are not tax deductible.

Parliamentary Committee Provides New Hope for Universal Pharmacare



The House of Commons Standing Committee on Health has breathed new hope into the long-term quest for universal pharmacare.

When the Committee released the report in April, the *Canadian Press* reported, “A parliamentary committee is recommending that prescription medications be publicly funded across Canada under a universal pharmacare program. The report includes 18 recommendations that it describes as a blueprint for establishing a single-payer, publicly funded prescription drug coverage program for all Canadians.”

The *CBC* added, “The all-party committee ... looked at two possible options for pharmacare. The first was a universal single-payer public prescription drug plan — which it settled on as its recommendation. The second option was to look at reforming the system to plug the gaps between public and private plans to ensure wider coverage.”

The Council of Canadians has long advocated for a universal pharmacare program.

Just after Justin Trudeau was elected in October 2015, Maude Barlow, Honorary Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, signed an open letter imploring him to take action on this issue.

That letter stated, “Pharmaceuticals are so essential to health and well-being that the World Health Organization has declared that all nations should ensure universal access to necessary medicines. Consistent with that recommendation, every developed country with a universal health care system provides universal coverage of medically necessary prescriptions — except Canada. Unlike any comparable country, Canada’s universal public health care system effectively ends as soon as a patient is handed a prescription to fill.”

Council of Canadians chapters across the country have visited their MPs, asking that the Trudeau government implement a national pharmacare program that would provide universal access to prescription drugs for everyone in this country.

Council of Canadians North Shore chapter activist Berta Gaulke delivered Council of Canadians pharmacare campaign materials to the office of Bill Casey. Casey is the Liberal MP who chairs the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health that has now recommended a single-payer universal public prescription drug plan. Campaign materials were also delivered to Liberal MP Doug Eyolfson and NDP MP Don Davies who are also key members of the House of Commons standing committee.

The Canadian Health Coalition welcomed the House of Commons report noting, “The committee also proposes serious improvements to the protection of Canadians from the self-interest of pharmaceutical companies. New drugs would be evaluated by an independent government agency free of influence by pharmaceutical companies.”

Now, to make the report recommendations happen!

In late February, the federal government appointed Dr. Eric Hoskins to chair an advisory council with the goal recommending options on how to “ensure every Canadian has access to the medicine they need.” That council is to report to the government in spring 2019, which may indicate the Trudeau government won’t take action on the House of Commons standing committee report until spring 2019.

The Council of Canadians continues to call on the government to take immediate action on pharmacare and not wait until next year and the lead-up to the October 2019 federal election. It’s estimated that one in ten Canadians are not able to access the medications they need due to costs.

Global News reported, “A new report by the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions estimates that hundreds of Canadians die every year because they are unable to afford their prescription medication. The report estimates that a lack of prescription drug coverage contributes annually to 370-640 premature deaths due to ischemic heart disease, 270-420 premature deaths of working-age Canadians with diabetes, and 550-670 premature deaths from all causes among working-age Canadians.”

At the same time, the Trudeau government is supporting free trade agreements that increase the cost of pharmaceutical drugs.

In April, *iPolitics* reported, “Extended patent protections under Canada’s free trade deal with the European Union could cost the federal government some \$270 million a year, according to a new report by the Parliamentary Budget Officer. ...The two year extension certificates would delay introduction of cheaper generic drugs, granting longer market exclusivity and keeping drug costs higher. ...The report said the estimates are likely understated because of the rapidly changing nature of the pharmaceutical landscape in Canada.”

To take action and learn more, visit our website at canadians.org/pharmacare, or call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.

2017: Looking Back at a Year of Action

Tens of thousands of people have signed the Council of Canadians Nestlé boycott pledge – have you?

There are many ways your contributions as a Council of Canadians supporter helped to drive tangible progress and achieve concrete results in 2017.

The Council of Canadians' strength comes from the ground up. Ordinary people like you in communities across Canada coming together with courage and conviction in pursuit of the better Canada and fairer world we know are possible. Volunteers in 60 chapters across the country put our campaigns and other local issues of concern into action, speaking out for social justice, fairness and equality.

Here are some of the ways – big and small – that you were a force for good in communities across the country and beyond in 2017:

Saying no to Nestlé

Council of Canadians supporters stood up to Nestlé, the world's largest bottled water company. In response to Nestlé's outrageous bottled water grabs in Ontario and B.C., more than 60,000 people across Canada have now joined the Council's Boycott Nestlé campaign – with more people joining the fight every day.

Negotiating a new NAFTA

The Council of Canadians has been a strong voice in the people's call for a better North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). As renegotiations forged ahead, thanks to the support and action of our donors, we have driven people across the country to make more than 35,000 submissions to the public consultations and get their voices officially on the government's record. And our NAFTA campaign has reached more



than 1 million people online, giving them the tools and information they need to join us in pushing our government to make NAFTA a better deal, or walk away.

Energy and health care rallies

You supported front line communities taking on Big Oil. In 2017, we finally saw years of tireless effort pay off with the defeat of the Energy East pipeline. As a result of your efforts and support, we saved 3,000 waterways from disastrous spills and kept millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas pollution out of the air. At the same time, you are helping to push for the green energy alternatives our communities, country and planet need.

Pushing for Pharmacare

You advocated for pharmacare as the prescription to improve the health of all Canadians. As drug prices continue to rise to unaffordable rates, you are helping to push for a national pharmacare program that will ensure everyone has access to medications they need regardless of their ability to pay.

What makes all of this even more impressive is that the Council of Canadians continues to operate with-

out a penny of corporate money or government support.

Our work is made possible by the generosity of like-minded people who believe social, economic and environmental justice is something we must all strive for. With your support, we garnered hundreds of media hits, organized major events in communities across Canada and around the world, held conferences and speaking tours, produced educational factsheets and reports, provided daily updates on our website, by email and on social media, and delivered informative articles in *Canadian Perspectives*.

These remarkable achievements – and much more – were made possible by your financial contributions. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you for supporting this work.

As we look ahead to a looming Charter challenge to ensure everyone is able to exercise their right to vote, trade injustices under a bold U.S. President, and the fight to secure clean, protected water and a fossil-fuel-free future, your support is needed more than ever. Together, we will ensure a better Canada – and a better world – for us all.

Chapter Action Updates

Members from several Council of Canadians chapters recently took part in Unifor's town hall on a people's agenda for trade



Council of Canadians' chapter activists across the country continue to be busy on key political issues of the day to protect water and public health care, challenge unfair trade deals and climate change, and to stand up for democracy. Here are just a few examples of their recent actions:

Stop Kinder Morgan

Chapters have been active in the fight to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline. They have been rallying at the constituency offices of Liberal Members of Parliament across the country, calling on provincial politicians – including Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe – to give up the pipeline and commit to renewable energy, while calling on other provincial politicians in British Columbia government to stand strong, respect Indigenous rights, and continue to oppose the project. Chapter members have also been involved in sign-on letters, posting on social media, co-sponsoring public forums, engaging in civil disobedience training, and being present on Burnaby Mountain where the pipeline will traverse. This fight will only grow more intense now that the Trudeau government has committed public dollars to buy the pipeline.

Battling climate change

Chapter members have written submissions opposing Bill C-69, proposed legislation that misses the opportunity to restore protections to all lakes and rivers, gives more power to industry-captured offshore petroleum boards, and doesn't recognize the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the Atlantic provinces,

chapters have been raising awareness and working to stop the federal government's approval of BP drilling for oil and gas offshore of Nova Scotia. The drilling would violate Indigenous rights and pose a threat to water and the climate. Chapters are finding ways to promote renewable energies and the need to transition to a carbon-free economy.

A people's trade agenda

In April, nine southern Ontario chapters: South Niagara, Hamilton, Halton, Guelph, Peterborough-Kawarthas, Windsor-Essex, Northumberland, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto, gathered in Hamilton for a two-day conference focused on a people's agenda for trade. The public forum featured Council of Canadians Honorary Chairperson Maude Barlow and included a full day of workshops focused on information sharing and strategizing.

The Northumberland Chapter and the PEI Chapter, through the Trade Justice PEI network, have also expressed their concerns about trade directly to the federal government, including a demand for the current negotiating text for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to be released.

Blue Communities

Chapters continue to promote the Blue Communities Project, which is taking off across Canada and around the world. Inspired by Berlin, Germany becoming a Blue Community, the Council's London, Ontario chapter is committed to turning their community "blue" too. The Montreal chapter has now had two meetings with the city councillor responsible for water and will continue to move forward with

its efforts to turn Montreal "blue." The Brandon-Westman chapter made a presentation to their city council in March and expected an answer back by the end of June. And despite the Campbell River city council refusing the Campbell River chapter's request for their municipality to be designated a Blue Community, the chapter is committed to finding ways to move the initiative forward.

Fish farms

Pacific region chapters have been working to stop fish farms. The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs says the B.C. government committed to giving First Nations a say on whether the tenures of the 18 fish farms on their territories will be renewed when they expire in June of this year. The Comox Valley chapter prepared a package for Pacific region chapters and allies to use to lobby their MLAs to convince decision-makers to say no to the renewal of these permits. The Chilliwack chapter took part in a rally outside provincial government cabinet minister Adrian Dix's Vancouver-Kingsway office with this message. Unfortunately, despite all these efforts, the B.C. government announced fish farm tenures can continue. The new rules will require fish farm companies to obtain indigenous consent starting four years from now.

If you are interested in joining a Council of Canadians chapter near you, please check out our Chapter Contacts on page 11, call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177, or visit our website at canadians.org/chapters. We can also help you start a chapter if there isn't already one in your community.

Chapter Contacts

The Council of Canadians appreciates the energy and dedication of our chapter activists. If you are interested in joining a chapter please see the contacts list below, or get in touch with the regional office closest to you. For more information on the Council's chapters, visit www.canadians.org, or call us at 1-800-387-7177.

Atlantic

Regional Organizer

Angela Giles
agiles@canadians.org
Organizing Assistant
Robin Tress
rtress@canadians.org
902-422-7811
1-877-772-7811

New Brunswick Fredericton, NB

Chris Smisnaert
506-454-5119
chrissmisnaert.rpf@gmail.com

Kent County, NB

Denise Melanson
506-523-9467
coc.kent.county.nb@gmail.com

Moncton, NB

Pamela Ross
506-471-1700
cocmoncton@gmail.com

Saint John, NB

Leticia Adair
506-633-0398
ladair@nb.aibn.com

Newfoundland and Labrador

St. John's, NL
Jimena Martinez
stjohnscoc@gmail.com

Nova Scotia Inverness County, NS

Johanna Padelt
902-787-2753
coc.inverness@gmail.com

North Shore, NS

Berta Gaulke
902-899-4220
nsnscoc@gmail.com

South Shore, NS

Marion Moore
902-527-2928
southshore.coc@gmail.com

Prince Edward Island Charlottetown, PEI

Betty Wilcox
902-672-2650
jbwilcox2010@hotmail.com

Ontario-Quebec- Nunavut

Regional Organizer
Mark Calzavara
mcalzavara@canadians.org

Organizing Assistant

Rachel Small
rsmall@canadians.org
416-979-5554
1-800-208-7156

Ontario Centre Wellington, ON

Contact regional organizers

Guelph, ON

Ronald East
519-766-0139
roneastcocguelph@gmail.com
www.coc-guelph.ca

Halton Chapter

June Wright
june.haltoncoc@gmail.com
cochalton.wordpress.com

Hamilton, ON

Ed Reece
905-389-7887
ed_reece@yahoo.ca
www.cochamilton.ca

Kitchener Waterloo

David Lubell
519-745-0175
kw.cocf@gmail.com

London, ON

Roberta Cory
519-601-2053
info@londoncouncilofcanadians.ca
www.londoncouncilofcanadians.ca

Mississippi Mills, ON

Stan Madore
613-454-1685
stan@madore.ca

Northumberland, ON

Minnie de Jong
905-377-1713
cocnorthumberland@fastmail.com

Ottawa, ON

Phil Soublière
613-204-1459
ottawa.cocf@gmail.com
www.sites.google.com/site/ottawacanadians/

Peel Region, ON

Rosemary Keenan
905-457-9513
cocfpeelpmt@rogers.com

Peterborough-Kawartha, ON

Roy Brady
705-745-2446
rbrady1@cogeco.ca
www.peterborough-kawartha.org

Quinte, ON

Lynne Rochon
613-393-1985
rochonlynn@gmail.com

South Niagara, ON

Fiona McMurrin
905-788-0756
fmcMurrin@cogeco.ca

Thunder Bay, ON

Contact regional organizer

Toronto, ON

Tracy Frohlick
416-975-3895
torontochapter@gmail.com
torontococ.weebly.com

Windsor-Essex, ON

Doug Hayes
519-735-8319
dhayes18@cogeco.ca

Quebec

Montreal, QC

Abdul Pirani
450-371-2529
apirani.coc.montreal@gmail.com

Prairies-NWT Regional Organizer

Bronwen Tucker
btucker@canadians.org
587-926-7601

Alberta

Blood Tribe, AB

Kimberly Weasel Fat
587-438-0124
kimberly_ann_66@yahoo.com

Calgary, AB

Alana-Dawn Eirikson
587-433-0744
Calgarycoc2015@gmail.com
www.calgarycouncil.wordpress.com

Edmonton, AB

Rod Olstad
780-988-3802
edmontoncouncil@yahoo.ca

Hinton, AB

Tim Shain
780-865-1240
cochintonchapter@gmail.com
www.cochintonchapter.ca

Red Deer

Karen Reay
403-391-4242
coc.reddeer@gmail.com

Manitoba

Brandon-Westman

Contact regional organizer

Winnipeg, MB

Mary Robinson
204-803-5416
canadianswinnipeg@gmail.com
www.canadianswinnipeg.org

Northwest Territories Northwest Territories

Lois Little
867-873-8120
cocnwt@gmail.com cocnwt.ca

Saskatchewan Prince Albert, SK

Rick Sawa
306-922-3851
rj.sawa@inet2000.com
pacouncilofcanadians.ca

Quill Plains, SK

Elaine Hughes
306-323-4901
tybach@sasktel.net

Regina, SK

Jim Elliott
306-352-4804
caar@accesscomm.ca

Saskatoon, SK David Greenfield

306-222-8520
cocsaskatoon@gmail.com

British Columbia and Yukon

Regional Organizer

Harjap Grewal
hgrewal@canadians.org
Organizing Assistant
AJ Klein
aklein@canadians.org
604-688-8846
1-888-566-3888

British Columbia Campbell River, BC

Richard Hagensen
250-286-3019
surfdust@telus.net

Chilliwack, BC

Daniel Coulter
604-791-2852
chwkcouncilofcanadians@gmail.com

Comox Valley, BC

Kathie Woodley
250-334-4608
cvcouncilofcanadians@gmail.com
www.cvcnadians.org

Cowichan Valley, BC

Donna Cameron
250-748-2444
dcameron@seaside.net

Delta-Richmond, BC

Lynn Armstrong
7788352546
lynnbea@gmail.com

Kamloops, BC

Anita Strong
250-375-2241
dnastrong1@gmail.com
www.kamloopscanadians.ca

Kelowna, BC

Karen Abramsen
250-769-1977
kareneh@uniserve.com

Mid-Island/Nanaimo, BC

Bill Eadie
250-758-0218
beadie@shaw.ca
www.midislandcanadians.org

Nelson-West Kootenays, BC

Keith Wiley
250-777-2020
wileykeith@gmail.com

Port Alberni, BC

Colin M. Frazer
coc.pt.alberni@gmail.com

Powell River, BC

Patricia Cocksedge
604-485-5409
pcocksedge@telus.net

Terrace, BC

Bruce Bidgood
250-635-6044
bbidgood@telus.net

Vancouver-Burnaby, BC

Penny Tilby
604-263-1005
tilbypeterson@telus.net
www.vancouvercouncilofcanadians.ca

Victoria, BC

Barbara Mitchell Pollock
250-220-5355
info@victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca
www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca

Williams Lake, BC

Peter R. Smith
250-392-2605
williamslakecocf@yahoo.ca
www.williamslakecouncilofcanadians.ca

INSIDE

- On the Road with Maude Barlow
- Time for Water Policy that's "True D'eau"
- Defending Democracy: We head back to court this fall
- Hope for a Better Canada through Monthly Giving
- NAFTA 2.0: For people or polluters?
- Resisting Big Oil's influence from coast-to-coast
- 2017: Looking Back at a Year of Action
- New Hope for Universal Pharmacare
- Chapter Action Updates
- Chapter Contacts

Follow Us

-  twitter.com/CouncilOfCDNs
-  facebook.com/CouncilofCDNS
-  youtube.com/councilofcanadians
-  flickr.com/councilofcanadians
-  pinterest.com/councilofcdns
-  Vine.com: @CouncilOfCDNs

