



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

Nestlé bottling water at the expense of communities



By Emma Lui

Every day, Nestlé, a multinational corporation whose operations include water bottling, draws millions of litres of water from aquifers in British Columbia and Ontario which it packages and sells for huge profits.

In October, I went to the site of the Middlebrook well with members of the local group Save Our Water who talked about how vulnerable the town of Elora, Ontario's drinking water supplies are. Elora, which is a community in the township of Centre Wellington, relies on three wells for drinking water. One well is stable but the other two wells are so vulnerable they cannot be pumped at the same time.

Two years ago, Nestlé bought the Middlebrook well on the edge of Elora despite Centre Wellington's own bid to buy the well in order to safeguard drinking water supplies for the community.

Nestlé's plans to pump 1.6 million litres from this well have been delayed by a temporary provincial moratorium on new and expanded bottled water permits. The moratorium was enacted in response to massive public pressure from Council of Canadians supporters and local groups such as Wellington Water Watchers and Save Our Water. The moratorium was extended in December. A public opinion poll commissioned by the Council of Canadians in November revealed that 82 per cent of respondents across Ontario said the provincial moratorium should be permanent.

The Ontario government should require Nestlé to sell the Middlebrook well to Centre Wellington as the township's population is expected to more than double in the next 25 years.

Six Nations of the Grand River is downstream from Nestlé's operations. *The Guardian* reported that "Ninety-one percent of the homes in this community aren't connected to the water treatment plant...Some...have no water at all. Others have water in their taps, but it is too polluted to drink."

Under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, governments are required to obtain free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous peoples for water projects like Nestlé's bottled water takings.

Six Nations youth and supporters organized a protest against Nestlé in November and ran to the Grand River for the Water Is Life Prayer Run. A bus then took people from Six Nations to Nestlé's plant in Aberfoyle. Many more people from the Guelph area joined to show support. Despite the rainy and damp weather, roughly 250 people gathered at the entrance of the plant to listen to speakers and express opposition to Nestlé's water grabs.

Wellington County is one of two places in Canada where Nestlé pumps water despite local opposition. Nestlé is also pumping water for bottling in British Columbia.

Despite repeated droughts in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, Nestlé continues to extract 300 million litres annually from a well in Hope, B.C. located on Stó:lo



territory. The well extracts water from an aquifer that 6,000 nearby residents rely on.

Bottled water exports from Canada to the U.S. have increased by 383 per cent since 2009. According to Statistics Canada, exports from B.C. to the U.S. have increased a staggering 5,951 per cent over the last decade.

Bottled water is a frivolous and wasteful use of dwindling groundwater reserves. It is entirely consumptive – meaning almost all the water extracted leaves the watershed and does not replenish the aquifer. Council of Canadians chapters across the country have found water bottled in Nestlé's Aberfoyle and Hope plants for sale as far away as Newfoundland and Yellowknife.

The Council of Canadians is working with local groups to pressure provincial governments to phase out bottled water takings. The Council will also continue investigating where Nestlé and other bottled water products are being exported to. We are also promoting the Blue Communities Project, a growing global movement that encourages municipalities and other communities to ban bottled water, protect the human right to water, and promote public water and wastewater services.

Emma Lui is the Water Campaigner with the Council of Canadians. With files from Mark Calzavara, Ontario-Quebec-Nunavut Regional Organizer.

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Stop it at the Source: Fighting Teck's mega tar sands mine

By Bronwen Tucker



If approved, the Frontier Teck Mine would be Alberta's largest single tar sands mine project and would be equivalent to permanently adding about 10 million new cars on the road, or about 60 million tonnes of CO₂ a year. Photo: Louis Bockner, Sierra Club BC

Right now, the Vancouver-based company Teck Resources is pushing hard to win approval for the largest-ever tar sands mine proposal in Alberta's history. The Frontier Mine would cost \$20 billion, operate for more than 40 years, and produce 260,000 barrels of bitumen per day. Teck Resources wants to slip the project through the approval process without much public scrutiny, but the Council of Canadians is working to make sure that does not happen.

The Frontier Mine is a dramatic step away from the fairer, 100 per cent renewable energy economy we need to be building. While the people-powered fights to stop and stall new pipelines have made it much harder for new tar sands projects to go forward, to have the best chance at stemming their expansion, we also need to shift some focus upstream to projects like the Frontier Mine.

At the beginning of October, I drove up to Fort McMurray to participate as an intervener in the federal-provincial Joint Review Panel hearings for this mine on behalf of the Council of Canadians. Here are some of the reasons why we called on the panel to "reject Teck":

1. The Frontier Mine is a carbon bomb.

Teck Frontier's well-to-wheels emissions would be equivalent to permanently adding about 10 million new cars on the road, or about 60 million tonnes of CO₂ a year.

When we take stock of Teck's emissions, we also have to consider the big

picture. We are facing cascading failures with respect to the tar sands' climate impacts – the Teck mine does not fit within Alberta's 100 MT emissions cap based on the other new projects that have already been approved, the Alberta emissions cap is already not ambitious enough to meet our 2030 federal targets, and our 2030 federal targets are already well below what can be considered Canada's fair share of meeting the Paris Agreement.

2. It is unlikely to provide steady jobs, tax revenue or profit.

Because the Frontier Mine requires high oil prices to stay profitable but also high upfront investment, there is a good chance it will not provide steady jobs or economic benefits for the public. While the environmental impacts and Indigenous rights violations associated with this project would not be acceptable even if the project were much more profitable, it is important to highlight that all of that damage could be for almost no economic benefit. More jobs would be created by investing in almost any other sector.

3. It doesn't uphold Indigenous rights.

During the hearings I listened to testimony from elders and water protectors from the Deninu K'ue First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, and Fort McMurray First Nation, among others. They told the panel about the many ways that the cumulative impacts of tar sands projects are already hurting their communities.

Patrick Simon of the Deninu K'ue First Nation, located 300 kilometres downstream of the project, told the panel, "Soon, you will have Indigenous peoples from all the way up in the Arctic coming down to these hearings because the impacts of these projects are carrying so far away from the source."

While many of the impacted nations' leaders have signed participation agreements with Teck for this project, some stated they felt they had no choice because their efforts to counter tar sands developments have always been ignored.

The Frontier Mine is such an extreme project that we are cautiously hopeful the panel will reject it, or approve it with so many conditions that Teck cannot afford to build it. But if it is approved, the project will still face a decision from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna right before the 2019 election. We are building the political pressure now to make sure they cannot say yes to it.

With your generous support, the Council of Canadians is working to build a just transition away from the tar sands and towards 100 per cent renewable energy. There is still a lot of work to be done to get there, and not very much time left – thank you for being a part of it!

Bronwen Tucker is the Prairies-Northwest Territories Regional Organizer for the Council of Canadians.

The faces of offshore drilling resistance

Photos by Robert van Waarden

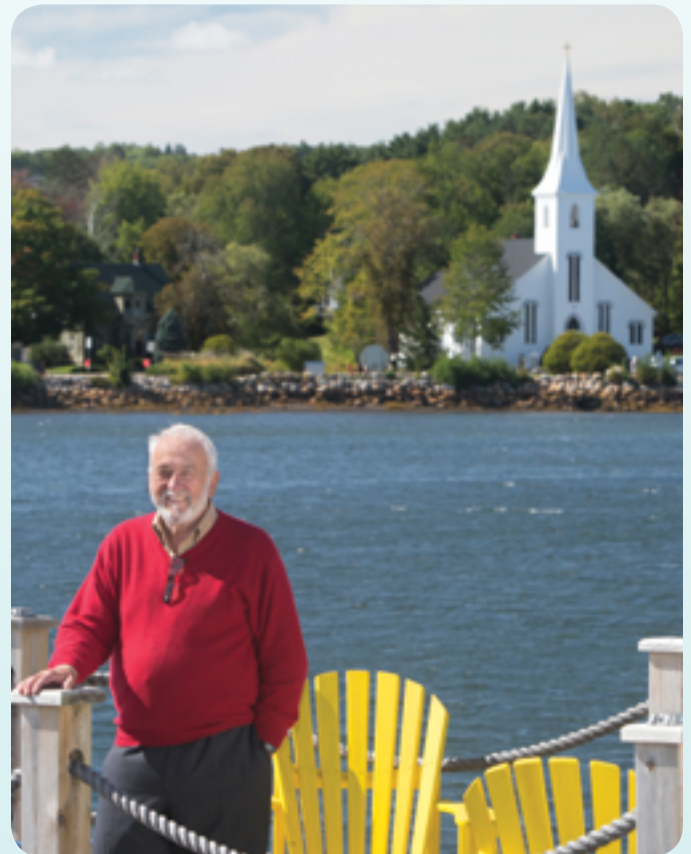


"It would be catastrophic if there were a major spill here, and we would be directly affected. If there was an oil spill on our shores, tourists who come here for the natural beauty, beaches, recreation and paddling would surely go somewhere else."

Scott McCormack, Sea kayak guide and owner-operator of Cape LaHave Adventures

Why is offshore drilling not worth the risk? Who carries these risks? Who is working in communities to speak out and fight back against the offshore industry? This photo series highlights a number of community activists who are coming together to protect their homes, coastal communities, fisheries, tourism, and cultural histories from the harms of offshore drilling.

Robert van Waarden, a photographer whose work often focuses on climate change-related issues, shares the images and voices of people who are working to stop BP's drilling offshore Nova Scotia.



"Above: "This town is able to survive because of the tourism that flows from the ocean. If the ocean is uninhabitable or displeasing because of an oil spill, our economic viability is gone."

David Devenne, Mayor of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia



"This is our home, not a cash cow. As L'nu our job is to protect Mother Earth."

Marilynn-Leigh Francis,
Indigenous fisherwoman

“We can't fight climate change if we continue to extract and expand fossil fuel development. They're mutually exclusive.”

Chelsea Fougere,
climate justice activist

Below: “The oil and gas industry has proven time and time and again in Alaska and Angola and the Gulf of Mexico that they're not willing to coexist with fishermen.”

Colin Sproul, Bay of Fundy
Inshore Fisherman's Association



Colin Sproul



Marilyn Keddy

Above: “Offshore drilling is not worth the risk to our fisheries, tourism, and climate. Our politicians need to listen to the people who elected them, not to the oil and gas companies. We can't fall into this classic example of industry capture.”

Marilyn Keddy, Retired former social worker

“We refuse to allow the advocates for a poorly regulated finite oil resource to put the bounty of our renewable fishery resources at risk for a few decades of dangerous oil extraction.”

John Davis, Director of Clean
Ocean Action Committee

Opposing offshore drilling is just one piece of the “keep it in the ground” movement the Council of Canadians supports. This movement is calling for no more new fossil fuel development or infrastructure, combined with investment in a just transition for workers and our economy on a global scale.

Bold action must be taken in order to turn the tide on climate change. We need to call more loudly than ever for climate solutions, including funding for renewables, energy efficiency, ecological agriculture, and other low carbon sectors. We need to call for worker retraining, cleanup of abandoned oil projects, and for ways to make our cities more walking, biking and transit-friendly while upholding Indigenous rights. We need a new vision for our future – one that doesn't include new offshore drilling projects, but one that is healthy, sustainable and will secure a better, livable future for us all.



by Sujata Dey

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: The new NAFTA and Canadian trade

On November 30, after months of drama, U.S. President Donald Trump, outgoing Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, signed the new NAFTA in Buenos Aires at the G20 summit.

The deal was unfinished, with lawyers working around the clock right up until the signing. President Trump has already threatened Mexico with auto tariffs over GM's closing of auto plants and has said he will rip up the old NAFTA. The U.S. Congress – both Republicans and Democrats – are asking for profound changes to the agreement before they would approve it. So, as we saw with the Canada - European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), this may not be the last signing.

But what is in the deal? Is it a new NAFTA, or is it really different? The answer is both. NAFTA has gone through significant changes, some for the better, some for the worse. In essence, it has copy-pasted corporate-friendly parts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the 11-country deal that ironically, Trump pulled out of. These provisions were on intellectual property,

limits on Crown Corporations, higher monopoly protections for drug companies, and benefits to Big Data.

The Council of Canadians, with the generous help of our supporters, brought the voices of people across the country forward. We worked with allies, wrote reports, sent postcards, commissioned surveys, organized rallies, and spoke directly to politicians. With U.S. and Mexican allies, we delivered petitions asking for Chapter 11 to be removed at the U.S. Congress. Our Honorary Chairperson, Maude Barlow, produced the *People's Guide to Renegotiating NAFTA* outlining our 10 principles for a fairer deal. We also produced fact sheets and handimation videos.

The good news is that in some ways, the deal has improved. During this renegotiation, more than 30,000 Council of Canadians supporters urged the government to get rid of Chapter 11, the mechanisms in NAFTA that allow foreign corporations to sue governments over their public policy if it hampers profits. And we were heard! The Chapter 11 investment provisions will not exist between Canada and the U.S. This is a major victory. The mechanisms will, however,

exist between the U.S. and Mexico, but in a less potent form.

We also teamed up with University of Alberta Professor Gordon Laxer from the Parkland Institute to discuss the problematic energy proportionality provisions. Lifted from the U.S. Canada Free Trade Agreement, they mandate Canada to export energy to the U.S. according to a set formula. With these provisions, Dr. Laxer showed that Canada would be unable to meet Canadians' basic needs in the event of energy shortages, and would also be unable to meet our G8 climate commitments. This, too, was taken out of the new NAFTA.

The Council fought to keep and expand the cultural exemption in NAFTA. In September 2017, the Council of Canadians and the Régroupement Québécois sur l'intégration continentale gathered 100 prominent Canadian, Québécois and Indigenous artists to write a letter to the Canadian government asking it to enshrine and expand Canada's cultural exemption in NAFTA.

The cultural exemption was kept, and now is expanded to include digital culture: Netflix, video games, and on-line culture. It does, however, still permit U.S. retaliation.

But as is the case with trade agreements hatched in secret with corporate interests at the forefront, the new deal has severe flaws. Corporations may have gotten rid of their ability to challenge legislation in Chapter 11, but they have now been empowered to have a seat at the table, to review and approve policy and regulations before they see the light of day. These provisions – called regulatory cooperation – are being sold as being about eliminating red tape for businesses when in fact, these regulations are often our environmental, food safety, chemical, and other public interest rules. Now, corporations are given the opportunity to challenge regulations on a whole series of grounds. Pipeline companies have been given their own side agreement where they specifically can review regulators' actions.

Dairy farmers have also been devastated by concessions that grant U.S. farmers close to 3.6 per cent access to Canada's dairy market. Combined with the Trans-Pacific Partnership and CETA, this is a horrible blow to the industry. It also will open the floodgates for the imports of milk containing genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone. Not licensed in Canada, the hormone is widely used in the U.S. to boost milk production at the expense of human and animal health. In general, the agricultural chapter will be a severe attack on our ability to produce and consume locally sourced food.

Patent extensions for pharmaceutical drugs are bad news. The U.S. has allowed two more years of protection

for biologics, a class of drugs made of human or animal tissue. This wildly expensive but essential medicine is found in drugs for arthritis, Crohn's and ulcerative colitis. It will certainly add to the price we pay for drugs, to the benefit of Big U.S. Pharma.

The Labour and environment chapters are also problematic. A 21st Century labour chapter and environmental chapter would need adequate teeth, and the environmental chapter, at minimum, would have to recognize the biggest problem facing humanity: climate change. Unfortunately, none of those things are happening within this new deal. However, U.S. House of Representative Democrats have said they will push for these changes.

The CPTPP

And while the world was fretting over President Trump's tweets on NAFTA, another deal was quietly being ratified. The so-called "Comprehensive and Progressive" Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership – the old TPP – was pushed through the House of Commons at unprecedented speed. After the U.S. ditched the deal, the remaining 11 countries bordering the Pacific Ocean revamped it, eliminating the deal's pharmaceutical and intellectual property provisions, but keeping most of the old TPP intact.

In less than a few weeks, the deal passed three readings in the Senate and House of Commons as the Trudeau government limited debate. While the new NAFTA

does not have the Chapter 11 provisions, this CPTPP has them and adds the corporations of nine more countries to the roster of those that can sue Canada over its public interest policies.

CETA in Europe

In Europe, the Council of Canadians joined The Stop TTIP and CETA Italia movement to reinforce the Italian government's statement that it will not ratify CETA. While the agreement has been provisionally in effect since September of 2017, the investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms have been controversial. Full implementation requires the consent of all 28 EU states and 10 regional governments. With a legal challenge still ongoing at the European Court of Justice and the ratifications of EU countries, CETA is not a done deal.

As you can see, with trade agreements, our collective voice does make a difference. We are able to challenge corporate power when we work together. We have had some critical successes in Canada and in Europe. However, as corporations continue to have access to power, and wield it through trade agreements, we are a long way off from fair trade agreements for people and the planet.

Luckily, the Council of Canadians, working alongside groups all over the world, is trying to win this important global struggle.

Sujata Dey is the Trade Campaigner for the Council of Canadians.



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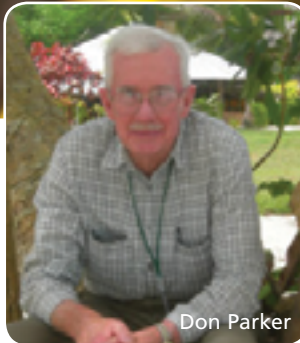
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Leave a Legacy to Empower the Next Generation

By Jamian Logue



Don Parker

Don Parker passed away two years ago. This year he'll fight to enact tough new laws to protect lakes, rivers and drinking water sources.

I first met Don in 2004, and over the years that followed we developed a friendship based on shared values. From mobilizing for labour rights to initiating youth education and employment opportunities, Don was the kind of person who took action.

He once told me that as far back as he can remember, advocating for social justice and holding governments and corporations accountable were driving forces in his life.

Knowing that the pursuit of those goals would outlive him, Don arranged for a bequest in his will to keep the work of the Council of Canadians going strong well beyond him.

“The corporate thirst for our water and energy resources, the erosion of our sovereignty, profits trumping people – the Council effectively takes on issues that hit us right where we live,” he told me. “I know my bequest will help the Council reach out and empower the next generation in carrying the torch.”

This year, Don's legacy of activism will live on. His bequest will provide critical funding to support the advancement of

the very struggles for justice and rights that he so passionately fought for in life.

We are deeply honoured and eternally grateful to Don and all of our other supporters who have thoughtfully chosen this very special way of supporting the Council of Canadians.

Make a Lasting Statement

After a lifetime of standing up for social justice, defending the public interest and fighting to build a more caring and compassionate Canada, many Council of Canadians supporters choose to plan a legacy gift in their will to make a lasting statement about what matters to them – and to ensure their activism carries on beyond them.

Once family members and loved ones have been looked after, a legacy gift affords you the opportunity to align your personal values with your philanthropic goals.

Whether it's a bequest arranged in your will or a life insurance policy that is no longer needed, a legacy gift is a simple yet meaningful way to assist an organization that shares your values and beliefs, and will work to uphold them for the benefit of future generations.

By planning a legacy gift for the Council you can help shape the kind of Canada and world our children and grandchildren will inherit.

If you have not already done so, please consider leaving your own legacy gift to empower the next generation to continue fighting for the better Canada and a fairer world we all know are possible.

To request no-hassle information on legacy giving, including our helpful guide, simply complete the form below, then detach and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope enclosed.



Request information on how to leave your legacy

- Yes, please send me information on planning a legacy gift for the Council of Canadians.
- I have already arranged a legacy gift for the Council of Canadians.

Name _____

Address _____

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You can also call H el ene Bertrand at **1-800-387-7177, ext 244** or email her at **hbertrand@canadians.org**

Bayfield's Blue Community Story



Communities across Canada are turning “blue” as part of the Council of Canadians, CUPE and Eau Secours’s Blue Communities Project. This people-powered initiative encourages people to approach their municipal government to pass resolutions recognizing the human rights to water and sanitation, banning or phasing out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events, and promoting publicly financed, owned, and operated water and wastewater services. Bayfield, a small community in southwestern Ontario, was awarded its Blue Community designation in 2015 – but local residents haven’t stopped there. Ray Letheren, one of many local volunteers, shares the story about how they turned their community blue and kept going.

The southwestern Ontario Village of Bayfield has a population of 1,000 and is located on the shores of Lake Huron. Bayfield was awarded Blue Community status by the Council of Canadians in 2015. Inspired by Maude Barlow’s visits, the environmental voice of the village, Blue Bayfield, set out to honour its commitment to the Blue Community Project.

Blue Bayfield chose an alternative approach to gaining Blue Community status. Instead of seeking support from the municipal council, we sought support from the residents of the village, in a grassroots approach. Thirty-five organizations committed to the project

by agreeing to acknowledge access to water as a human right. In a landmark decision, local groups also ended the use of single-use bottled water at meetings and events. These groups ranged from Girl Guides, to service clubs, to book clubs, to gatherings with the local conservation authority.

Having received this community commitment, Blue Bayfield made over 2,000 refillable bottles available to anyone in the village. Blue Bayfield got sponsors and installed five refill stations throughout the village. The jewel of the refill stations is the mobile tricycle “Blue Betty.” Betty is made available to any group holding an event and comes filled with 20 litres of municipal water and compostable cups. She also makes weekly visits to the farmers’ market.

Over a two-year period, the refill stations have had over 25,000 users. This is a remarkable figure given that two of the stations are outdoors and out of service for seven months of the year.

The dangers of plastics

One of the missions of Blue Bayfield is to educate and raise awareness. Given our location on the shores of Lake Huron, we are constantly reminded of the effects of plastics in large bodies of water. Studies by 5 Gyre Institute, New York University and a Bayfield-based organization, Love Your Greats, have confirmed that the amount plastic in the Great Lakes per volume of water is double that of the

oceans. It is estimated that the oceans contain 220,000 pieces of plastic per square-kilometre compared to an estimated 440,000 pieces in the Lakes.

These are alarming figures when 45 million people in Canada, the U.S. and Indigenous nations depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, and support for industries. Sadly, the Lakes are also reservoirs for sewage, plastic, and other debris from hundreds of communities of varying sizes. Much of the lake plastic is in the form of small beads. Fish and other species mistake these beads for food and municipal treatment plants are limited in their ability to remove microbeads from drinking water.

This concern gave rise to the Plastic Free Coastline Project. Bayfield, Ontario became part of this movement last spring by getting municipal council to pass a resolution to become plastic-free, organizing beach clean-ups, having local businesses commit to reduce the use of plastics, working with other groups, and holding plastic-free events.

With the support of the Blue Community Project and Plastic Free Coastlines, Blue Bayfield is doing its best to address environmental issues and be a model for other small coastline communities in Canada.

Ray Letheren is a member of the Blue Bayfield group.

Chapter Action Updates



The Montreal Chapter of the Council of Canadians took part in an action in December calling for a green new deal to address climate change. Chapters also delivered copies of the recently released UN climate report to MPs across the country.

Council of Canadians chapters help put campaigns and social and economic justice issues in the spotlight in communities across the country. Chapter activists continue to be busy protecting water and public health care, challenging unfair trade deals, calling for urgent and immediate action on climate change, and to standing up for democracy. Here are just a few examples of their recent actions:

Rewriting the rules

As the Northwest Territories government pursues sweeping reforms on seven pieces of legislation covering fossil fuel, land, and resource development, the Northwest Territories chapter has been pushing for the reforms to include binding references to the territory's commitments to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the human right to water and the Paris Climate Agreement. Over six months, the chapter participated in stakeholder meetings, wrote letters, and drew media attention to the shortfalls of the new bills. As first written, the pieces of draft legislation would allow for projects to go forward without Indigenous consent, fracking projects to be developed, and the expansion of oil and gas development in a time when we need to be transitioning towards renewable energy. Amended legislation is expected in mid-2019. The Northwest Territories chapter will be ready to hold their territorial government to account no matter what happens.

Offshore Drilling still not worth the risk

The world is creeping closer to a climate tipping point. Corporations are gaining control over regulatory and decision-making processes. Some of the world's richest

corporations like Husky and BP are operating in the Atlantic Ocean and bouncing back from major industrial accidents without repercussions. These are the things the South Shore chapter is fighting against with their Campaign to Protect Offshore Nova Scotia. Since starting their campaign in 2016, they've gained the support of six municipal governments, been a driving force in establishing the Offshore Alliance coalition, educated people through speaking tours and the media, and delivered lawn signs and bumper stickers to communities from Yarmouth to Sydney in Nova Scotia. This year, they'll be working to make offshore drilling an election issue and garnering even more support to stop offshore drilling in Atlantic waters.

Fighting the Site C dam

Seven chapters partnered with author and agriculture policy expert Wendy Holm to host a "Damming the Peace" speaking tour about BC Hydro's Site C dam from Victoria, B.C. to Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. With packed rooms at each stop, Wendy, chapters, and allies made the case that the risks to food sovereignty, watershed health, and Indigenous rights mean the mega-dam cannot go forward, and gave people the tools to get involved. Since the tour was held, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that a full Treaty 8 Infringement trial needs to take place before the reservoir area is flooded in 2023, which means the fight against Site C continues!

New Brunswick fracking ban in question

The current moratorium on hydraulic fracturing – also known as fracking – was established in New Brunswick when Brian Gallant's Liberals won the election in

2014. Fracking is an extreme extraction method for trapped natural gas. Current New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs is arguing that the community of Sussex and surrounding areas support fracking. Premier Higgs added an amendment in his recent Speech to the Throne that includes a partial lifting of the moratorium. When MLAs visited the communities of Sussex and Penobsquis in December, chapter activists from Moncton, Kent County and Saint John reminded them that fracking opposition is still strong. New Brunswick chapters will be organizing rallies, radio ads, participating in actions and organizing strategy sessions to ensure the fracking ban stays in place.

Eradicating poverty-sharing the solutions

The Hamilton chapter in Ontario organized a Forum on Poverty and Inequality on October 17, the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Solutions to poverty and inequality such as the Guaranteed Basic Income program (which the Ford government abruptly cancelled despite the Premier's promise not to do so during the election campaign), "Rent Safe" and a proposed registry of landlords were presented and discussed. The event was endorsed and organized in partnership with the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction and the Disability Justice Network of Ontario.

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 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.

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Chapter Contacts



Maude Barlow (centre) was in Germany in December celebrating four new Blue Communities. The cities of Augsburg, Berlin, Munich and Marburg all received designations for their commitments to water.

