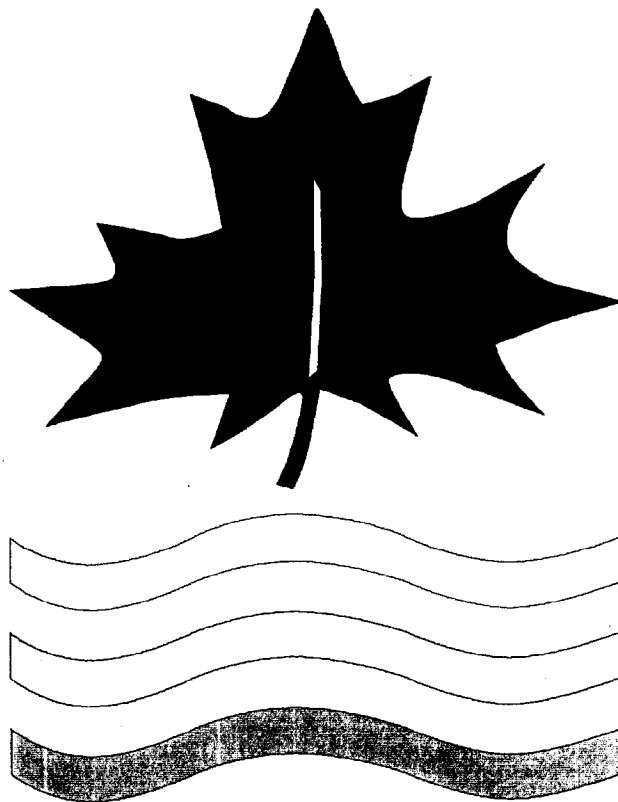


Save Water:



Put a Cork in NAFTA!

March 1999

THE
COUNCIL
OF CANADIANS



502-151 Slater St.
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H3
1-800-387-7177
www.canadians.org



March 1999,

Dear Friends:

As I am sure you have been reading and hearing for the last few months, we are in real danger of losing control of our most precious community resource - our water.

For years we have been hearing warnings about an approaching global water crisis but in Canada, a country so abundant in water resources, it seemed unbelievable. We now know the time of wide spread water shortage is here. Corporations are lining up to cash in on the world's thirst for fresh water.

However, because of NAFTA, profiting from the hardship of those without water comes at a terrible price - our ability to govern our own resources. That is why the government must ban large-scale water exports now.

This kit has been put together to give you a starting place from which to bring the fight into your community. It is full of tools, ideas and links to information, action and other groups who have joined this cause.

Water is too essential and precious to be available only to those who can afford it. This struggle to maintain water's place as part of the global commons will strike at the very core of the corporate agenda to divide everything among the rich and privileged. As long as water is traded, the causes of this water crisis will go unaddressed. A ban on bulk water export will be the first step toward a sustainable water policy that ensures a sufficient supply of clean water is recognized as a basic human right. Please use this kit to join us in this important fight.

Sincerely,

Maude Barlow
Volunteer National Chairperson
The Council of Canadians



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THE BIG LEAK IN FREE TRADE

If we start to trade bulk quantities of water we will lose our ability to control water – forever! Despite what the government has been saying for years, water is covered by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).¹

HOW THE RULES OF NAFTA APPLY TO WATER:

National Treatment means that American and Mexican companies must be treated like Canadian companies in their access to goods and markets. Trading water cannot be limited to Canadian companies nor can we place limits on how it is traded, how much is traded or with whom it is traded.

Proportionality means that as long as there is a drop of water left we can never end water exports—regardless of the environmental effects in Canada or the needs of Canadians.

Investor – State suits allow investors from outside Canada to sue the Canadian government should we pass a law that interferes with their ability to make profits now or in the future. The process is secret and companies could even sue if they were considering investing in an enterprise affected by new legislation.

- ✳ Recently the Government of Canada was forced to pay U.S.-based Ethyl Corp. \$20 million in compensation for lost profits and repeal a law banning MMT, a gasoline additive the government concluded could be harmful to Canadians
- ✳ Sun Belt, a company from California, is suing the Government of Canada for \$220 million because of an earlier British Columbia decision preventing the company from exporting billions of litres of fresh water from B.C. to California. **If we allow bulk exports of water now it will mean future generations will have to pay billions in compensation just to govern our own resources.**

BULK WATER EXPORTS COULD CAUSE LARGE-SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, INCLUDING:

- ✳ increased levels of mercury in water (and the animals that live in water)
- ✳ loss of forests, agricultural land and wildlife
- ✳ the destruction of fisheries, wetlands and freshwater deltas

...and once the tap is turned on, we won't be able to turn it off – no matter what other environmental consequences we discover down the road.

¹ NAFTA defines a good for the purposes of the agreement's obligations, "as understood in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade", which includes, "waters, including natural or artificial waters and aerated waters...; ice and snow" GATT Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System 22.01





TRADING WATER WOULD NOT HELP PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD FACING WATER SHORTAGES

- ✻ The world's poor could not afford to pay for water on a for-profit basis
- ✻ Water exports are aimed at high-end luxury markets; water shipped from North America would be destined for bottling in low-wage free trade zones
- ✻ Trading in water would not address the underlying reasons for water shortages and would delay a genuine global solution

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING

The federal government has asked the provinces to declare a temporary ban on exporting water. If even one province breaks ranks, all of Canada will be committed to the trade in water. The government has asked an international commission to predict the environmental impact of bulk water exports. If exporting water does prove to be environmentally damaging in the future, under NAFTA, we will be prevented from doing anything about it.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO DO:

- ① Enact legislation prohibiting large-scale water exports.
- ② Open negotiations to exempt water from NAFTA or, preferably, sink the deal.
- ③ Develop a broad national water policy that ensures ownership and control of Canada's fresh water remains in public hands.
- ④ Join with other countries and non-governmental organizations world wide to promote more efficient use and conservation of local fresh water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT CANADA'S WATER

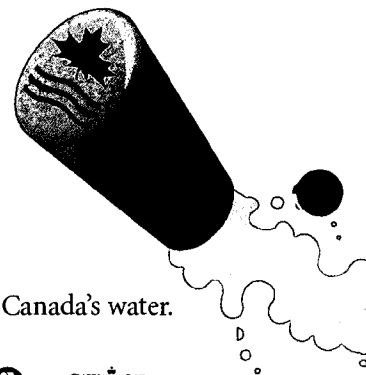
- ✻ Call, write or fax your MP (MPs' numbers are available by calling 1-800-463-6868) or Minister of International Trade Sergio Marchi at 1 (613) 992-7332, fax 1 (613) 947-4452
- ✻ Send a cork to Sergio Marchi to show him you are against exporting Canada's water and tell him to

Put a Cork in NAFTA!

Send your cork to:

Sergio Marchi, Minister for International Trade
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

- ✻ Call **The Council of Canadians** at 1-800-387-7177 to find out more about protecting Canada's water.



CAW 567
OTTAWA



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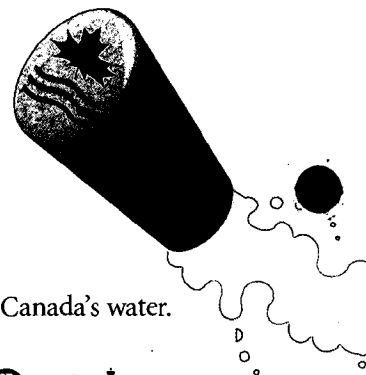
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CAW 567
OTTAWA

A Plan Full of Holes

On February 10, federal Environment Minister Christine Stewart and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy stood before a roomful of journalists on Parliament Hill to announce a federal plan to prevent the bulk export of Canadian fresh water abroad. In response to mounting calls from the Council of Canadians and others to deal with the threat, the ministers called on the provinces to join with the federal government in a moratorium on bulk water exports until a detailed national accord could be reached. Axworthy went further, however, allaying fears that Canada might lose control of its fresh water by referring reporters to a 1993 exchange of letters between Canada and the United States that purports to exempt fresh water from the free trade deals.

Immediately after the ministers' press conference, Council Chair Maude Barlow and Executive Director Peter Bleyer took to the podium to respond. The following is an edited version of Maude Barlow's statement.

I want to respond to the announcement that's just been made. First of all, I will say something positive and that is that the Council is pleased the government knows it has to do something. The bad part is that they're trying to do with water what they're trying to do with magazines, which is, having given away rights to our water under the North American Free Trade Agreement (and, I would add, under the World Trade Organization), they are trying to walk around the legislation to find a compromise. It's not going to work.

First of all, the moratorium is not binding on the provinces. If even one province decides not to adhere to it, the whole plan will be placed in jeopardy. [Quebec has, in fact, declared that it will not take part.] Secondly, it is not trade-proof. If any one province allows the export of water for commercial purposes, all of the provincial bans across the country will be put at risk because only federal legislation exempting us from NAFTA can pertain in this issue. That has been very clearly spelled out by many, many trade lawyers and by Mr. Axworthy himself when he was in Opposition.

Mr. Axworthy talked about an exchange of letters that took place in 1993. I should have brought with me the statement he issued in 1988, on the eve of the federal election, declaring that no exchange of letters between governments could protect water – that only opening up the deal (at that time, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement – the model for NAFTA) would suffice.

The benign notion that water can lie in the ground protected in one province while it's being traded com-

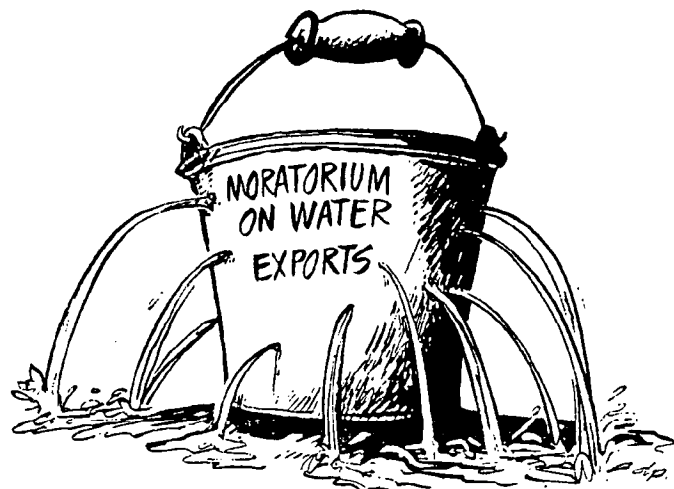
mercially in another is wrong. But I'll go further than that and say that I don't think we have yet understood the implications of the fact that a Canadian company – Global Water Corp. of British Columbia – has already signed a contract to export 18 billion gallons of Alaskan water every year to China. Global Water Corp. plans to begin exporting within a year.

This means that one of the three NAFTA countries has already opened up the commercial export and trade of water; therefore NAFTA has been triggered in terms of the water resources of all three countries. This sets in motion the Investor-State rights in NAFTA – the provision under which Ethyl Corp. of the United States sued Canada last summer for banning the toxic gasoline additive MMT, and forced us to reverse the ban. It's the provision under which Sun Belt Water, Inc. of California is suing the Government of Canada.

By not having the guts to deal with water as a trade issue, and dealing with it only through environmental legislation, like the earlier MMT ban, the federal government is leaving us open to further challenges by foreign companies seeking lost profits.

What is the federal government planning to do on Sun Belt? Are they making a secret agreement? Are there other Sun Belts that we don't know about?

We are distinctly unhappy with the way the government has chosen to respond to this issue. They are attempting to come at it by hoping the Americans won't notice what we are doing. I have news for them: U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky is on the warpath and I highly doubt that she will be accommodating. What she is certain to say is: "Go ahead and pass all the environmental legislation you want. As long as this trade legislation remains in place, our rights to Canadian water are secure."





SUEZ LYONNAISE DES EAUX

In 1997 a new multinational giant was formed by the merger of Lyonnaise Des Eaux with Compagnie de Suez. Lyonnaise Des Eaux (LDE), based in France is active in the privatization of water and distributes to 68 million people in more than 30 countries on all five continents. The company's world-wide revenue in 1995 exceeded \$25 billion and it employs over 150,000 workers. Almost half of its investments are in the water sector with the remainder in the privatization of garbage, construction, energy, communications, and transportation.

Through its merger with Suez, Lyonnaise des Eaux acquires greater financial resources to support its expansion. More specifically it becomes a true multi-utility company since Suez controlled much of the electrical industry in Belgium through the holding company Tractebel.

The company's development strategy is to increase its environmental services businesses (water, energy and waste management) on the overseas markets, especially Canada and the United States. Lyonnaise is already a major waste management company through its subsidiary Sita which is one of the largest waste management companies in Europe.

WAITING ON THE SHORE: LDE IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

LDE has been located in Toronto since 1995 and has actively promoted the privatization of water in Canada. It is one of the sponsors listed for the Canadian Council on Public-Private Partnerships and is a regular presenter at water privatization conferences.

One of LDE's many subsidiaries, Degremont Infilco Ltee is located in Lachine Quebec and specializes in the design and supply of water treatment facilities to municipalities in the nuclear, paper, steel and chemical sectors and has worked with the municipalities of Montreal, Laval, Chateaugay, Saint-Jean, Repentigny and Drummondville. LDE is not only interested in Canada's water. It is also active in the areas of energy, garbage collection, communications construction, and road building contracts in Canada through various subsidiaries (Trigen, GTM-Entrepose, Janin, and Entreprise Jean Lefebvre/Construction DJL Inc.) Most notably, Janin won the contract for the building of the Confederation bridge linking Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick.

Just the Facts...

CEO: Gerard Mestrallet

CEO Salary: not reported

Revenue: Approximately \$25 billion
(1996)

Profits: \$999 million
(1995)

Employees: 156,719
(1997)

LDE is the main shareholder of United Water Resources (UWR), the second largest water utility in the US which supplies water to more than 2.5 million Americans across 14 states. In 1995, a 5 year contract with Jersey City resulted in the largest privatization contract ever signed in the US for distribution of drinking water. Through another jointly-owned subsidiary, JMM Operational Services Inc., LDE is involved in an additional 19 plants in the US. UWR is also active in Banff and Edmonton, Alberta.

Through United Waste Services (UWS) and its stake in UWR, Suez Lyonnaise recently obtained a ten-year \$300 million contract to provide wastewater services to 1.2 million people in the Milwaukee area. It also has a contract to provide water and wastewater services to the city of Indianapolis.

With the possibility of water privatization in Canada, companies with holdings in the US will be at an advantage when selling our water to the US. Water is included in the tariff schedule under NAFTA and once it is diverted south of the border, it will be next to impossible to get it back. When water is sent to the US, LDE will be more concerned in their healthy profit level than healthy drinking water for Canadians.

WHO ARE THE WINNERS AND WHO ARE THE LOSERS WHEN WATER IS PRIVATIZED?

Between 1989 when water was privatized in the UK and 1995, there was a 110% increase in the amount of money consumers paid for water to Northumbrian Water, a subsidiary of LDE. The salary for the CEO increased by 150% during this time. Corporate profits rose by 800%. Leakages at this time were reported at 16 million gallons/day. It is clear that consumers are paying for these incredibly high profits through increased rates. Money is pumped to inflate an already huge profit margin instead of being pumped back into repairing and maintaining needed infrastructure.

France's national audit office recently criticised the degree of concentration in the water supply market because of the dominance of LDE and Generale Des Eaux, another large supplier. As a result of privatization in France, the price of water rose by a national average of 47.7% from 1990 to 1994. This has led the mayor of Lyon to force LDE to cut the base price of water by 7%.

The British water regulator OFWAT recently criticised LDE for "featherbedding" their own subsidiaries when it came to awarding contracts. Two transportation subsidiaries of LDE have put in bids for vehicle maintenance to contracts held by Northumbrian Water (subsidiary of LDE).

DO WE TRUST LDE WITH OUR WATER?

In 1995, a French court confirmed that the water contracts awarded LDE in Grenoble in 1989 involved corrupt dealings and this resulted in the mayor of the city receiving a 5 year prison sentence for taking bribes from the company. Also sentenced were high level managers of LDE. All sentences are currently under appeal. As a result of the renegotiation of the contract, LDE will now stop levying extra user charges and will also surrender majority control of the water concession back to Grenoble.

CASE STUDY: LYONNAISE DES EAUX AND CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

"We are here to make money. Sooner or later the company that invests recoups its investment, which means the customer pays for it". (Mr Daring, Director of LDE in Casablanca)

In 1995 LDE signed a contract to supply water to the city of Casablanca. The deal was finally solidified in April, 1997. The two year wait was a result of the city council's concerns over the eminent cost increase of water to the citizens of Casablanca resulting from privatization by LDE. The contract projected a rise in water prices of 10-15% and of waste-water disposal by 60%. A senior city official stated that nothing justifies the increase in prices the company is projecting. In addition, criticism was waged that LDE was not injecting enough of its own capital into the project. Investment money was coming from bank loans and the company paid virtually no new capital at all.



PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION
(formally Philip Environmental Inc.)

Philip Services Corporation (PSC) is the largest integrated resource recovery and industrial services company in North America with annual revenue in excess of US\$ 1.7 billion, with over 320 operating locations.

Philip is a Canadian company based in Ontario. It has been transforming itself since last year by selling solid waste business and using the proceeds to buy companies in metals recycling and industrial services which includes everything from demolition to the recycling of waste water from manufacturing plants.

In December 1994 and March 1995, the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth signed two agreements with Philip Utilities Management Corporation (PUMC) - a Division of Philip Services Corporation. These agreements contracted-out to PUMC the responsibility for management and operation of the region's water and sewage treatment facilities. Philip has used these contracts as their foothold in the water and sewage treatment industry.

JUST THE FACTS...

CEO:	Allen Fracassi
CEO Salary:	Not Reported
Revenue	
1997:	\$1.75 billion
1998 (est):	\$3 billion
Percent of 1997 Revenue from US Operations:	70%
Profit:	None due to acquisition of at least 16 companies since September 1996

**NO NEED TO LOOK OVERSEAS:
A CANADIAN EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEMS OF PRIVATIZATION**

In January 1996, an accident at the Hamilton treatment plant managed by PUMC caused the worst spill in its history where 180 million litres of raw sewage poured into the harbour. Over 70 homes and business reported excessive damage after their basements were filled with this raw sewage. More than one year after this catastrophe, the region and the PUMC were still wrangling over who was responsible to pay for the clean up. Sorting out responsibility is estimated to have cost the municipality \$400,000 in legal, staff and consulting fees.

Additional concerns were raised in 1996 when a regional councillor expressed frustration that they do not receive communications from PUMC and that the company acts at too much of an arm's length from the political process. Some regional politicians are also feeling that they have spent an inordinate amount of time dealing with difficulties arising from the PUMC-run facilities.

The region still owns the PUMC-run facilities and is responsible for the actions of the company. Philip, however, successfully negotiated contracts where they would not be held liable for many problems arising from their management of the facility.

HOW DOES PHILIP TREAT ITS EMPLOYEES?

In March 1996, the company announced layoffs of 20 of its 119 workers, representing 17% of its workforce. In addition, 19 other positions were vacant at the time PUMC took over the facility. These positions have never been filled. The layoffs were not reported to the councillors of the region even though the region still owns the plant.

Under the original agreement, PUMC agreed to hire all current employees until March 31, 1996. The first chance Philip had to issue layoff notices, they took it. The amount Philip receives for operating the facilities is not linked to the number of employees. Therefore, reducing the wage bill through attrition and layoffs, means big profit for Philip.

The company had originally promised to contribute \$15 million in new capital projects and to guarantee the region 100 new jobs within the region. It pledged to pay the region a penalty of \$10,000 for every job less than 100 created. What happened to this promise? What impact is a fine of \$10,000 when the company makes in excess of \$18 million per year? Once again, jobs and the importance of public sector work are sacrificed to corporate greed.

CORPORATE EXPANSION AND MISMANAGEMENT

Philip Services has been aggressively buying up or gaining control of numerous companies in the last few years. Among them have been American based companies such as Allwaste and Serv Tech. In fact, almost 70% of its revenue has been generated in the United States.

But Philip's appetite is larger than its resources. It attempted to acquire Safety-Kleen Corp. - a recycling and industrial cleaning company worth approximately \$2 billion - but it lost out to Laidlaw.

It was also discovered that in its rush to expand it "lost" or "misrecorded" \$90 million worth of copper inventory. Because of this and other miscalculations, the company has had to announce "writedowns" of more than \$250 million. The expansion and misadventures mean that Philip is claiming a loss of more than \$100 million for 1997.

This has some Philip shareowners so upset, they have filed class action suits against the company for issuing "materially false and misleading statements".

Public sector decision makers should rethink having Philip and other companies operate and control vital services like water and waste water treatment.

PHILIP - THE SILENT PARTNER IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

In October 1995, the region proposed to transfer energy from its solid waste incinerator to the power-hungry sewage treatment plant managed by PUMC. This transfer would reap \$2.5 million in savings. The region and PUMC have been battling over who should benefit from these savings. One councillor suggested to the media that what Philip was demanding in this dispute was *"more or less blackmail"*.

When an incinerator owned by the region and operated by PUMC was shut down and waste trucked to a landfill site nearby, it created substantial savings. According to Philip's deal with the region, 60% of the savings that might have benefited taxpayers was to be handed directly to Philip. Some members in the region's government believe that all such savings (millions of dollars) should go directly to the region and the taxpayers.

The *Silent Partner - Profit* - is reaping the highest rewards in the deal in Hamilton. **Philip is managing the facility for the profits and faces no liability for damages.** In effect, the region has given Philip a *"damages guarantee"*, allowing them to operate a public facility for its own profit, without facing the risks that fully private businesses must face daily. The *Silent Partner* has effectively tied the hands of the region prohibiting them from pursuing environmentally-sound and financially prudent innovations which would benefit the communities and the taxpayers.



UNITED UTILITIES (NORTH WEST WATER, CANADA)

United Utilities (UU) was formed in 1995 when North West Water (NW Water) and Norweb merged. NW Water is one of the largest private water and waste water companies in the world. UU is also involved in electrical, gas supply, and telecommunications. Revenues exceeded \$4 billion in 1996 and the company employs over 10,000 workers worldwide.

UU has set up shop in Canada and the company is called NW Water, Canada. It has two wholly-owned subsidiaries: Asdor Limited and Wallace and Tiernan Canada Inc., both suppliers of equipment for water and waste water treatment processes.

Water is *"the next biggest worldwide market after power generation. While people can live without electricity, everyone has to have water"*. (Gordon Waters, International Division Managing Director, United Utilities).

Just the Facts...

Total CEO Salaries and Benefits for top six executives 1996/97: approx. \$3 million

Top six executives own over 100,000 shares in UU and have options on almost another 500,000 shares.

Revenue: Approximately \$2 billion (1996-97)

Profits: Approximately \$1 billion (1996-97)

DO WE WANT UU PROVIDING US WITH WATER?

In the UK, between 1989 when water was privatized and 1995, there was a 106% increase in the amount of money consumers paid for water to NW Water. This is accompanied by a 692% increase in profits. The salary of the highest paid director of NW Water increased by 708% during this time.

In May, 1997, Councillors for York region in Ontario voted down a proposal to enter into a partnership with a consortium which included NW Water, Canada. This project included the construction of a pipeline from Lake Ontario and a new water treatment facility at Lake Simcoe. The regional councillors saw the importance of keeping water as a public responsibility.

HOW DOES UU TREAT ITS EMPLOYEES?

Job Security

Vertex, a subsidiary of UU provides a combined billing and invoicing service for both water and electricity. When Vertex was formed, UU announced that it would de-recognize the trade unions for Vertex staff and that it expected to axe 2,500 jobs. Vertex refused to recognize unions for collective bargaining and wanted its staff to sign personal contracts. The company admitted that the savings from the lay-offs would be used to pay for the costs of the merger and increased dividends. Customers would not see any benefit of these *"savings"* until the year 2000.

Health and Safety

Injuries in the UK resulting in absences of more than 3 days from work require that the employer report to the Health and Safety Executive. Employers are putting pressure on workers not to remain off work for more than these 3 days. NW Water's policy is that *"employees should be encouraged to return to work, even on alternative duties, at the earliest opportunity that their injuries will allow"*. According to UNISON, a union representing public sector workers in the UK, NW Water is using intimidation by sending managers out to convince the workers to come back to work before they are able.

THE SUMMER OF '95 DROUGHT AND MISMANAGEMENT IN THE UK

The worst example to date of the problems in water privatization occurred in the UK in 1995. During a devastating drought, NW Water imposed rotating water cutoffs at the same time as increasing water prices. Complaints were made that profits of \$213 million were not reinvested into infrastructure resulting in leaky pipes causing lack of water.

NW Water berated its customers for using sprinklers on their gardens while losing an astonishing 37 per cent of its supplies through its leaking mains and pipe network. Leakages at this time were reported at 157 million gallons/day.

Residents were given compensation for going without water, but unfortunately it was at such a low rate that it did not benefit the company to fix the leaky pipes - it was cheaper for them to disadvantage their customers and pay the fines to customers afterward.

UU's Chairman Sir Desmond Pitcher's response to the crisis: **AVOIDANCE**. While almost 18 million households were suffering from drought orders, he had an abundance of water as he was aboard his new \$1 million yacht lounging off the south of France.

WATER DISCONNECTIONS AND FORCED METERING

In 1996, Norweb, the energy arm of UU entered over 2,500 homes without the permission of the residents to disconnect supplies or to install pre-payment meters. NW Water disconnected 490 customers in 1996.

The British Medical Association in 1996 called for a ban on water disconnections citing that *"disconnection of water supplies should be made illegal because of the vital role of water in health and disease prevention"*. In 1991-92, water disconnection reached its peak in England and Wales at over 21,000 disconnections. At the same time, the number of dysentery cases increased from 2,756 in 1990 to 9,935 in 1991.

WHAT ELSE CAN WE EXPECT

JOB LOSS - Estimate of 6,700 fewer jobs as a result of privatization in the UK water industry by the year 2000.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY - NW Water had the lowest rate of compliance of 12 UK water companies for suitable swimming water in 1996.

SELL-OFF OF VALUABLE RESOURCES - To add insult to injury - during the worst drought in England's history, NW Water sold off 4 reservoirs to property developers - boosting their corporate profits by \$15 million.

THE PURSUIT OF PROFIT - "All our actions are guided by a single prime objective - to grow shareholder value on an ongoing and consistent basis." (quoted from UU 1997 report to shareholders)

Action!

There are hundreds of millions of dollars at stake for some of the biggest corporations in the world hoping to cash in on the growing world water crisis. In order to compete for our politicians' attention against that kind of influence we are going to have to mobilize. There are many different ways to make our voices heard and spread the message to others that water should never be commercialized. We have developed tools to help you get the word out in your community and to get the message across to decision-makers. Below is a list of materials and actions you can use in this vital fight.

- Action Dates to focus national attention on this important issue
- Petitions and Letters to make politicians realize that the majority of Canadians oppose trading in water. Once they are completed, please mail them to The Council of Canadians National Office so we can present them together.
Send them to: The Council of Canadians
151 Slater Street, Suite 502, Ottawa Ontario, K1P 5H3
- A municipal action guide to help you develop strength in your own community and connect with others who share the commitment to protect our water
- Materials including pamphlets, a fact sheet, flags and this water action kit, to help get your message across.

If there is any way to support your local campaign, please let us know. Call the National Office at 1-800-387-7177 and tell us what you need.

We want to hear about your work and get the news to our members nationwide.

Important Dates for National Action

March 22 – World Water Day Get out and draw attention to the growing global water crisis and the dangers posed to our water by export and privatization.

September 17-19 – Canada's first People's Summit on Water
Taking place in Ottawa, it will bring activists together from across Canada and around the world to share their efforts to protect water and plot a course to pour cold water on corporate greed.

Put a Cork in NAFTA

This part of the campaign could be a lot of fun.

In order to get the message across to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ministers Lloyd Axworthy and Sergio Marchi that Canadians don't want their water exported or commercialized, we are asking our members to send them a cork with a note to:

Put A Cork in NAFTA – Don't Trade Our Water

There are lots of ways to get a cork. You can start with the one included with this kit, you can ask your friends and fellow activists to collect them for you, you can buy them by the hundreds at your local wine making establishment, or you can get them the old fashioned way and drink something sealed with a cork. Any way you get your hands on one, send it to Axworthy or Marchi (or both), and let them know that you are watching and waiting for them to protect Canada's water by excluding it from NAFTA and any other trade or investment agreement; or better yet, by killing the deal.

Send your cork to:

**Lloyd Axworthy, or
Sergio Marchi
at:
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6**

- * Canada Post assures us that even though the cork will make the envelope bulky, it is still free to send it to an MP or a Minister. Just make sure it is in a sturdy envelope, like a bubble envelope, so it is not torn and lost in their machinery.



Dear Minister,

Whereas exporting water will have devastating environmental effects;

I join with the Council of Canadians and thousands of other citizens in asking the government of Canada to enact legislation immediately to ban large-scale water exports.

Address

Signature

[illegible]

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien,
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa Ontario

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to urge you to ban large-scale exports of fresh water from Canada.

I am very concerned that once the trade in water begins, Canadians will lose the ability to protect our fresh water and respond to the environmental impacts that are sure to follow.

I am also concerned that the joint process the government has undertaken with the American government to study the effects of water export will adopt a compromise that is not in the interests of Canadians.

I ask you instead to provide the leadership that is so desperately needed to develop a sustainable water policy that can be an example to the world. Trading water will only support unsustainable practices and delay a new global approach to water use.

I join with the Council of Canadians and thousands of other citizens urging you to resist the pressure from corporations eager for huge profits at the expense of water deprived people around the world and move forward on a Canadian lead solution.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

NAME

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

Municipal Action

Lobby Guide

As you prepare to approach your municipal council, make protecting Canada's water a household issue in your community. Generate public interest with letters to the editor in your local paper, a local petition drive, perhaps an event and/or some media work. Make sure you look for partners and opportunities to build coalitions within your community. By joining with environmentalists, social activists and other community allies, you can demonstrate broad public support for this vital issue.

Here's how to make a presentation to your local government:

- 1) Telephone the clerk's office at your local municipal government; introduce yourself and your Organization. Tell the clerk you/your group would like to make a presentation to the council, if possible on an evening when the meeting is being taped for local cable TV. The clerk's office will probably tell you to write a letter asking for an opportunity to appear before council. In your letter make sure you specify the date you would like to appear.
- 2) Prepare and review a short speech; practice your delivery (average time of about five minutes); make sure you inject some energy and excitement. (For additional information see the campaign fact sheets or contact the National office)
- 3) The clerk's office will confirm the date and ask that you submit a copy of your presentation at least a week before you are scheduled to appear; make sure you identify yourself and your group and make sure your group's name is on the report.
- 4) Get your supporters out to the council meeting; by stacking the meeting you will increase the impact on council.
- 5) Make sure the media is informed. Make sure your coalition partners are informed and present.

Evaluation and follow-up

Make sure you do an evaluation of the campaign. This will help in future campaigns. Here are some tips:

- 1) Do a short written report. Attach any media clippings.
 - 2) Check with your supporters. Try to build on any local alliances you have developed.
 - 3) Forward your information to the National office so that we can share it with others!
- Also, contact us for follow-up strategies.

Good luck!

Municipal Resolution on Water Export

WHEREAS access to a sufficient supply of clean water is a fundamental human right;

WHEREAS a reliable supply of water is vital to the environmental and economic health of any community and the wellbeing of its citizens;

WHEREAS community water supplies are threatened by the possible diversion and export of bulk water; and

WHEREAS there is no federal legislation regulating the diversion or export of bulk water:

BE IT RESOLVED that Council urges the federal government and, through provincial/territorial associations, provincial governments, to implement legislation to ban bulk water exportation as a first step towards a comprehensive national water policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council forwards this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

BE IT RESOLVED that Council circulates this resolution to members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Resolution for Municipal Councils on Privatization

Whereas public health depends on equitable access to clean water supplies; and

Whereas public ownership and operation of water and wastewater treatment systems have improved access and quality over the past century; and

Whereas the privatization of water delivery and wastewater treatment in Britain has led to profound problems, including:

- discrimination against the poor by limiting or disconnecting their water supplies;
- significant increases in diseases such as dysentery and Hepatitis A;
- increased water wastage and leakage; and
- increased prosecutions for pollution while the private shareholders enjoyed large profits at public expense; and

Whereas the privatization of municipal water and wastewater treatment services would turn water into a commodity to be sold for profit;

Therefore be it resolved that the (name of municipality] oppose the privatization of water and wastewater treatment services, retaining these services in the public domain;

Be it further resolved that Council lobby the federal government to fulfil its responsibility to support reinvestment in Canada's municipal infrastructure, committing a significant level of funding in the federal budget for the year 2000 and beyond;

Be it further resolved that Council lobby the provincial government to join in ensuring an adequate level of funding to expand and upgrade municipal water and wastewater systems.

Be it further resolved that Council forward this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

Be it resolved that Council circulate this resolution to members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Water Watch

Water Watch is a national movement of community coalitions joined together to protect Canada's water. First formed through a national common front on water that includes The Council of Canadians, The Canadian Union of Public Employees, The Canadian Environmental Law Association and West Coast Environmental Law, the coalition works with organizations from across the country including groups from Quebec and Canada's First Nations.

With the support of a small national steering committee, community groups interested in protecting water from privatization, commodification, export and trade and to promote water conservation, join together to form community based coalitions called Water Watch committees. All that is required to be a Water Watch committee is a commitment to build one community coalition that includes, at least, local members of the founding groups (where possible) and that the committee adopt the principals outlined on the following page. Once you have established a committee let us know so we can connect you with other groups across the country.

Groups who form Water Watch committees will be connected by a national email list -serve moderated by The Council, CUPE and CELA where news about local group contacts, local events and updates about threats to our water and the fight to protect it will be posted.

Representatives from Water Watch committees across Canada will be invited to the national People's Summit on Water to be held in Ottawa on September 17th – 19th, 1999. There they will share their struggles and triumphs and develop a strategy to protect our water and reach out internationally to make sure the world's water needs are addressed properly and fairly.

Watch The Council's web site for upcoming Water Watch info and links at: www.canadians.org or call us at 1-800-387-7177

For more Water Watch information you can call the CUPE Water Watch line at 1-877-CUPE-H2O that's 1-877-287-3426



Common Front to Protect Water

Canadian social activists, trade unionists and environmental groups have formed a common front to protect water.

The initial participants in the common front are: the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Council of Canadians.

The common front is organizing a campaign with three major objectives:

- a.. Oppose Water Exports
- b.. Stop Privatization of Municipal Water Services
- c.. Promote water conservation, protection of water quality and healthy aquatic ecosystems

Our first target is to pressure the federal government to honour its promises to prohibit the bulk export of water. This needs to be realized through federal legislation banning large scale water exports (including water export by tanker) and by ensuring that trade and investment agreements (such as the NAFTA and the proposed MAI) do not threaten Canada's water.

We have adopted the following brief statement and set of principles:

Water is of immeasurable importance to Canada's environment, economy, public health and identity. Canada's rivers, lakes and groundwater have shaped our history, powered our industrial development, sustained our health, and nourished our spirits. Nevertheless, Canadians can no longer take water for granted. In addition to the many factors that threaten water quality and aquatic ecosystem health in Canada, we are in danger of losing public control of water resources and management. Increasingly, water is being regarded as a commodity that can be bought and sold on the market. There are now several active proposals to export Canadian water by bulk shipments or by diverting rivers. In addition, private corporations are gaining a foothold in the management of public water services such as drinking water and sewage treatment.

In light of these and other trends, we recognize the following principles:

- a.. Water is a public trust. All Canadians have the right and the responsibility to be involved in the major decisions affecting water in Canada.
- b.. An adequate supply of clean water for peoples' daily living needs is a basic human right. This right is best ensured by keeping water and sewage services in the public sector, by regulating the protection of water supplies and by promoting the efficient use of water.
- c.. It is wrong – environmentally, economically and morally – to engage in the large-scale trade of water. Water must not be regarded as a commodity for exchange in the international marketplace. Adequate supplies of clean water for people in water-scarce regions can only be ensured by promoting conservation and protection of local water resources. Importing water is not an economically or environmentally sustainable strategy for dealing with water scarcity.
- d.. Water is the lifeblood of the environment as well as an essential resource for humans. Each generation must ensure that the abundance and quality of water is not diminished as a result of its activities. Greater efforts must be made to restore the health of aquatic ecosystems that have already been degraded as well as to protect others from harm.



TOOL KIT

The Council of Canadians
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October 1995

To make the vision outlined in the Council's *Citizens' Agenda* a reality, there is a need to communicate with and involve many Canadians from throughout the country in work on the issues. There are many ways to communicate your message with your friends, allies, neighbours and specific communities. The media is one vehicle for communicating, and this Tool Kit module offers tips and suggestions for making the most of the media, whether you are working as an individual, or as part of a group.

The Council's regular grassroots Bulletin, *ActionLink* offers tips on engaging the media on specific issues which you may find useful.

Why Using the Media is Important to Your Strategy

Using the media can build **momentum** at the right point of your efforts or your group's campaign. Often groups will organize media events, or produce and distribute media releases just because it's something that's so often *done* in campaigns. However, getting the most out of the media involves clearly deciding *when* and *why* the media should be involved at any one point.

The media is excellent for exposing the issue and bringing your point of view into the public domain.

Consider using the media when you believe, as part of your strategy, that it is an opportune time to **send a message to your opposition or to elected officials**. The media can also be used to **introduce your group** or your position on the issue to the public, and to non-members.

Using the media can also **provide support** to members of your group and your allies, who may be buoyed by the coverage. At a time in the campaign when spirits are flagging, media coverage can be enough to get your group's members and allies back on track with the campaign.

Media *can* be relatively inexpensive and easy to organize, thus being a tactic which doesn't weigh too heavily on financial and other **resources**.

Some Easy Ways to Raise Your Issues in the Media

Media Monitoring

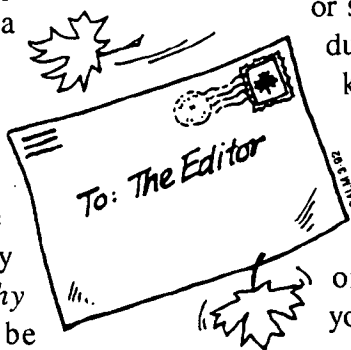
One common way to have an impact and counter the increasingly right-wing bias of the media is to regularly monitor the local media. When you read something that ignores our perspective on the issue, write a letter to the editor, or call the reporter responsible to raise and correct the bias. Or, if it is something you hear on the radio or see on TV, write a letter to the producer, or give them a call to let them know your stand on the issue.

The Council's *ActionLink* Bulletin regularly highlights current issues central to making the *Citizens' Agenda* a reality, and offers background information that you could use to support your position.

Letters to the Editor

A surprising number of people read letters to the editor, making them convenient ways to reach your community. Check your local newspaper for instructions on how to submit a letter to the editor.

When writing your letter, try to link your main argument to an item that previously appeared in the paper. Stick to one issue per letter and be brief and to the



point. If your letter is more than 300 words long, chances are it will end up in the recycling box.

Consider asking your friends or neighbours to sign or endorse the letter.

Op-ed Pieces and Guest Editorials

Many times community newspapers invite local residents to write an editorial or commentary article. Contact your newspaper about its policy on such contributions.

When you write in-depth articles, make reference to expert studies and reports to back up your arguments: "According to Dominion Bond Rating Service, nine-tenths of the increase in the federal debt from \$17 billion in 1965 to \$544 billion in 1995 can be attributed to the effects of compounding interest. Only 7.1% of the debt can be attributed to spending on government services and social programs."

Call-in Shows

Radio and television call-in shows are increasing in popularity across the country. Unfortunately, many radio talk-show hosts are decidedly conservative in their views and enjoy arguing with callers who disagree with them. They usually pose complex issues in very simple terms in the form of a 'question of the day': e.g. "Can Canadians afford to pay more tax?" The intent of questions such as these is to attract a chorus of popular resentment against government and public services. When issues are framed as such, you can ensure that your points get a fairer hearing by using the following types of "openers":

- *Turn the question around:* "I understand people's concerns, but I think we should be asking ourselves not if average Canadians should pay more tax, but why some very wealthy people and some profitable corporations in this country pay so little."
- *Question the host:* "Did you know, Jane, that by international standards, Canadians are not "Overtaxed"?"
- *Question the listeners:* "How would your listeners like to live in a country without Medicare?"
- *Make a prediction:* "Before today's show is over, I'll bet your listeners will be up in arms to hear how many corporate tax loopholes there are and what that's costing us."



"If there were an International Need to Communicate Award, Canada would win every year. Our huge land mass, small population, and proximity to the United States have created in us an obsession with keeping in touch with one another".

- Morris Wolfe

'Alternative' Media

Don't overlook some of the non-traditional media that may exist in your community. Many communities have entertainment publications, community newspapers, cultural tabloids, public or campus radio stations or community cable TV. Often these media are more sympathetic to our message. Call the Council's national office for tips on finding and contacting alternative media sources.

What Makes An Event Newsworthy?

- Your event involves large numbers of people
- Your event is unusual, creative and effective, like a spectacle
- Your event or issue affects the viewing, listening or reading audience
- There is a good "human interest" angle, maybe profiling someone in the community directly affected by the issue
- Someone well known in the community is involved

- You have urgent, or "breaking" news
- You time the event for an otherwise slow news day
- Your event builds on, or links with, other items currently being covered

Before Contacting the Media...

If you are writing a media release or organizing a media event under the Council's name, please give us a shout at the Council's national office. First, there are people you can talk with at national office who can provide experienced assistance and suggestions to help you make the most of your major media opportunity. Second, it is important that media efforts supports the Council's overall strategy and the work of other local groups.

Ask yourself what your **objectives** are in using the media at this particular time. As well, you should clearly think out what media coverage will lead to, and what the reaction of the audience will be. Make sure that involving the media is the tactic you really want to choose **at this particular point in your work**, instead of other methods of communications. While involving the media can be a useful tactic, it's one that should be used carefully in order to maintain the interest of the reporters, editors or producers you may want to approach again at some point in the future.

Finally, what media outlet(s) will best help you at this point in your efforts on the issue? Don't forget alternative media, community publications, and radio stations.

Sample Media Release



The Riverdale Social Justice Committee
18 Main Street, Riverdale ON L4X 9O9
Tel: 613-4321 Fax: 613-4231

Media Release

For Immediate Release
May 1, 1995

Cuts to Welfare Will Hurt Local Economy, RSJC Tells Mayor

(Riverdale) - The Riverdale Social Justice Committee (RSJC), a local umbrella organization representing women's groups, labour, and social activists, met with Mayor Tom Kenny of Riverdale today at City Hall to express opposition to recent budget cuts in local social assistance benefits.

"The problem is when you take that much money out of the local economy, you end up killing jobs and putting more people on welfare" says Ms. Daly. "We've seen it happen in other communities. Cuts have a negative impact on local businesses and end up wiping out any short term savings. When you cut welfare benefits, you end up hurting the whole community."

Currently, 1,200 people receive social assistance in the Riverdale area. By cutting benefit rates an average of \$35 a month per person, City Council plans to chop \$42,000 from its monthly welfare bill. However, RSJC argues any savings will be short-lived.

"The Mayor was completely unwilling to listen to our concerns," Susan Daly, volunteer co-ordinator of RSJC, says. "He showed no sympathy for the plight of the least fortunate in our community."

After her meeting with Mayor Kenny today, Ms. Daly vowed to step up the pressure on City Council in the coming weeks.

"This fight is not over," says Ms. Daly. "The Social Justice Committee will be organizing an information campaign and mobilizing its membership to protest these terrible cuts."

-30-

For more information:

Susan Daly, Volunteer Co-ordinator, RSJC 613-4321

— Do's and Don'ts of Media Releases —

Do's	Don'ts
• Make it short • Include a contact name and phone number • Use "-30-" at the end • Clearly identify your organization • Fax or hand deliver your release to the assignment editor or producer • Send a copy to the Council's national office for their information	• Underline or use capital letters for emphasis • Assume anyone knows your group or organization • Use puns, jargon or slang • Repeat information • Use strong or abusive language • Give out misleading, false or unsupported information • Put important information in the last paragraph • Include anything that you don't want made public

Many post-secondary campuses have accessible media outlets that may help you target your message.

Getting Coverage of Your Event: The Media Advisory

Whenever you decide to choose the tactic of organizing a media event, be sure to send the media an advisory, explaining who your group is, what the event is, why you are holding the event, the time, date, location and any other relevant details. Also, be sure to include contact names and phone numbers of spokespeople.

Ideally, the media advisory should be sent three to five days before the event itself. And to ensure maximum media participation, follow-up with a phone call a day or two before the event to the reporter, assignment editor or producer. It's best to find out who covers what beat so you can direct your message to the right person.

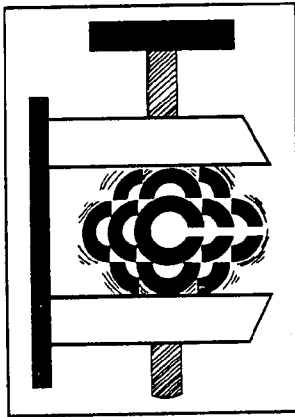
Take advantage of slow news days. For example, holding a public event on a little-known piece of federal legislation on the same day as the federal government releases its budget will give you little coverage, unless there is a natural and interesting link between your issue and what is in the budget. Generally speaking it is best to hold your event in the morning or early afternoon, on the weekend or a Monday.

Also, hold your event in a location that is easily accessible to the journalists you want covering the event. This includes everything from access to parking, to accessible and dependable circuitry for cameras and lights.

At any time, and especially if you are inviting reporters from TV, have good, attractive visuals and think about what is likely to appear on a visual image during your event.

Always designate a contact or contacts to deal with the media and have media kits available for reporters including your media advisory, pamphlets, back-grounders and any other relevant information.

After the event itself, call any media representatives that didn't show up, highlighting the event's importance and success and make a statement. Finally, send out a media release after the event, including photos for newspapers if possible. Keep all records of media coverage, and the names and numbers of any reporters who covered your event.



Developing Contacts

Central to the long-term media success of a group or a particular campaign, is making the most of the people in the media who you will be dealing with directly and indirectly. If possible, approach the editorial board of your community newspaper, or the producers of your community radio or TV station with different angles for covering the story, so that one may be of particular interest.

Meet with reporters who seem to be interested in, or sympathetic to your issues. This is particularly easy in smaller communities, where often newspaper or radio staff total only a few, and contact is quite easy.

As with any of the modules in the *ActionLink* Tool Kit, check with other organizations working on similar issues to find out who they have found as useful

contacts in the media.

Be selective - offer your best tips, contacts, exclusives and story ideas to your best friends and contacts in the media to develop your relationship with them.

Finally, keep a list of media contacts, their areas of expertise, the issues they tend to cover, along with their phone numbers, fax or electronic mail numbers. Check with the Council's national office - they may be able to provide tips on developing such a list.

Canadian Marshall McLuhan is generally credited with first using the term *media* to embrace all forms of communications.



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Media: News Conferences

Only hold news conferences when you have very important information to give out such as exposing major injustices, announcing the release of an original study, or launching a major campaign. They take some effort to organize, but are well worth it if you have a big announcement that you think will be of special interest to the media. If you are doing a news conference under the Council's name, please give us a shout beforehand to ensure that your efforts will support the work being done by other local groups, and that it complements the national strategy.

The opening statement should not be too long - three to five minutes is a good rule of thumb. And, as radio and TV only use about 20 second clips, try to ensure your statement is broken down to facilitate these clips. Everything stated should be backed up by fact or example.

*"I don't care if I'm understood.
I just don't want to be misunderstood."*

- Barbara Frum

News Conference Checklist

- Hold your conference before 3:00 p.m. to make the evening news, or before 10:30 a.m. to make the noon news
- Make your conference accessible to the media you want to attract, particularly important for large rural areas
- Hold your conference when there is little else happening which might conflict with your event
- Rehearse what you will say well in advance and role-play a reporter to ask pointed questions
- Start your news conference on time
- Never say anything "off the record",



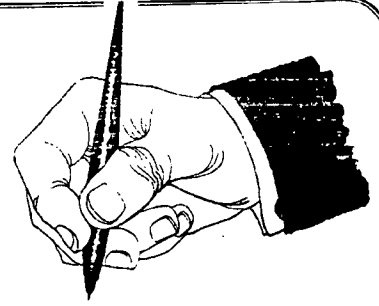
there's no such thing, and it places the reporter in an unfair position

- Issue a media advisory three to five days before the conference
- Prepare a media kit to distribute at the conference
- Make a list of who attends, and call the ones that didn't show up
- Identify a media contact person
- Set a definite time limit, and give reporters notice when you are getting close to the end of question time
- If the conference runs into trouble early on, cut it short



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Notes and Ideas...





MEDIA RELEASE

March 10, 1999

ONE MONTH AFTER FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENT, STATE OF CANADA'S WATER AS PRECARIOUS AS EVER

(OTTAWA) One month after the federal government's call for provincial governments to join a voluntary ban on bulk water exports, Canada's fresh water is no safer from being exported abroad than before, says The Council of Canadians. The federal government invited the provinces to join in the moratorium as a temporary measure before negotiating a national accord. But few provinces seem willing to jump on board and Quebec has flatly refused.

"Unfortunately we have to say 'We told you so,'" said Maude Barlow, Chair of The Council of Canadians. "The only way to protect our water from profiteers eager to cash in on a global water crisis is for the federal government to deal with the threat as a trade issue. As long as trade agreements cover water, we can't protect it."

"The government's statements led Canadians to believe that provincial agreement on a national moratorium was all but guaranteed. That hasn't turned out to be the case," said Jo Dufay, Campaigns Coordinator for the Council. "No province has since declared its support. Newfoundland, which is under corporate pressure to permit bulk water exports, seems reluctant to take a stand and Quebec has already said "no" to the proposed moratorium. The federal government must take action to ensure our water doesn't fall into corporate hands by default and its own inaction."

The Council of Canadians, a national, non-partisan public interest group with more than 100,000 members, is calling on the federal government to ban trade in bulk water. It is part of a national coalition of organizations, representing over half a million Canadians, opposed to the privatization and commodification of Canadian water.

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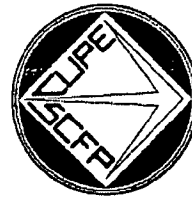
For further information: Maude Barlow (613) 233-2773
Jo Dufay (613) 233-4487 ext. 235 or
(613) 293-3783 cell



THE
COUNCIL
OF CANADIANS



LE
CONSEIL
DES CANADIENS



MEDIA RELEASE

February 9, 1999

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS URGE CHRÉTIEN TO BAN BULK WATER EXPORTS
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**

(OTTAWA) Time is fast running out for Canada to head off a lawsuit by a U.S. company that could cost Canadians millions of dollars and lead to our losing control of the country's fresh water, says an alliance of national organizations. More than 20 groups met today to discuss the threats posed to Canadian fresh water by commercial trade and privatization.

The alliance, which includes the Council of Canadians, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the West Coast Environmental Law Association, has sent a letter to Prime Minister Chrétien outlining their concerns and urging government action on a lawsuit launched last December by California-based Sun Belt Inc. Sun Belt is suing Canada for lost profits under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) because of an earlier British Columbia decision preventing the company from exporting billions of litres of fresh water from the province to California. Under NAFTA, Canada has 90 days in which to resolve the Sun Belt challenge or risk losing the suit; sixty of those days have already elapsed.

"Time is running out," said the groups in their letter. "Nothing is more essential to public health, security and well-being than water. Yet, in recent months, our governments have remained silent while there has been a proliferation of schemes for the bulk export of water for private profit. We call upon you to act in the public interest and ban the bulk export of water."

"It is wrong – environmentally, economically and morally – to engage in the large-scale trade of water," said Maude Barlow, chair of the Council of Canadians. "Water is a public trust; it belongs to the people. No one has the right to profit from it at someone else's expense."

"This is a very clear issue of the public interest versus private profit," said Judy Darcy, national president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. "We must protect water from being privatized and ensure that control of it remains in the public sector. That is the only way to ensure Canadians continue to have clean, affordable and sustainable supplies of fresh water."

"Companies like Sun Belt see water as the oil of the next century," said Sarah Miller of the Canadian Environmental Law Association. "Allowing water to be traded away is certain to harm the environment since it will inevitably place growing numbers of lakes and rivers beyond the reach of governments and the rule of law. Canada must act now."

Our water: Not for sale

MAUDE BARLOW

Last May, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy promised to take measures to protect Canadian water after a public outcry greeted the news companies were on the brink of exporting bulk water to foreign markets. He and Environment Minister Christine Stewart were to consult the provinces over the summer and table legislation this fall — a long overdue Liberal promise from the 1993 election campaign.

This is not the first attempt to protect our water. In 1988, the Mulroney government tabled the *Canada Water Preservation Act*, largely in response to the Liberals' charge that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement posed a threat to Canadian water security; but that session of Parliament ended before the law could be passed and it was never re-introduced. The House of Commons is about to adjourn for the holiday and once again there is no legislation in sight. This is not acceptable.

Worldwide destruction of aquatic ecosystem health and increasing water scarcity are creating a global water crisis. The consumption of water is doubling every 20 years — more than twice the rate of the increase in human population. By the year 2025, as much as two-thirds of the world's population could face severe water shortages. The World Bank says "the wars of the next century will be about water."

Global corporations and financial institutions believe they have the answer — the privatization and commodification of the world's water. Every year they hold a global water summit where industry leaders like Suez Lyonnaise Des Eaux of France, which distributes private water services to 68 million people worldwide, rub shoulders with influential politicians and thinkers to advance their mutual interests. In Canada, which holds over 20% of the world's fresh water supplies, the push is on to get in on the ground floor of this business opportunity.

Liberal MP Dennis Mills is promoting the GRAND Canal project which would entail massive water diversion of Canadian freshwater to the U.S. A Canadian company, Global Water Corporation, has signed an agreement with Sitka, Alaska, to export 18 billion gallons per year of glacier water to China where it will be bottled in one of that country's infamous free trade zones to save on labour costs. The company brochure entices investors "to harvest the accelerating opportunity... as traditional sources of water around the world become progressively depleted and degraded" and laments the H.C. government's ban on bulk water exports.

Before this goes any further, we need a public debate in Canada. I believe that water is a public trust that belongs to the people. No one has the right to appropriate it or profit from it at someone else's expense. An adequate supply of clean water for peoples' daily living needs is a basic human right and is best protected by maintaining control of water in the public sector.

It is wrong — environmentally, economically, and morally — to engage in the large-scale trade of water. Water must never be regarded as a commodity for exchange in the international marketplace. Adequate supplies of clean water for people in water-scarce regions can only be ensured by promoting efficient utilization of local water resources.

This is not to say I oppose sharing water in times of crisis. But the people who now lack access to supplies of clean water simply could not afford to import it if it were sold on a for-profit basis. Exporting water for the elites who could afford it would reduce the urgency of finding real, sustainable and equitable solutions to water problems in the developing world.

We urgently need legislation to prohibit the large-scale export of water by tanker or diversion. As well, the government must renegotiate NAFTA to explicitly exempt water, as it gives U.S. corporations "national treatment" rights to our water once any Canadian company is granted an export permit. In opposition, Mr. Axworthy himself said the free trade agreements "would override the Federal Water Policy prohibition of exports of interbasin water." Perhaps that is why Mr. Axworthy is dragging his heels now.

This is a crucial moment for Canadians and peoples around the world. Privatizing, commodifying, and commercializing water will serve to make a small handful of water transnationals very wealthy while doing nothing for people who need access to clean water resources. It will also threaten the environment by placing lakes, rivers and groundwater beyond the reach of governments and beyond the rule of law. Neither poor people nor those trying to protect aquatic ecosystems have the financial resources necessary to compete for water in the open marketplace.

Maude Barlow is national chairwoman of the Council of Canadians.

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Is Crittenden following her leader?

I was filled with glee that I discovered Danielle Crittenden felt it was time to weigh in on the Clinton rape allegations. ("A conundrum for feminists," Mar. 10.)

Lord knows, we have for some time been suffering from a lack of comment on this topic from pseudo-journalists.

I was confused by the last line, however. Mrs. Crittenden seems to call Clinton "our leader." Is she an American? Or are we Canadians again to lose one of the brightest stars in our journalistic firmament to the Americans? How will we bear it?

Michael Oates, Ottawa

Herzberg was a real gentleman

I would like to add a comment on the obituary by Bob Harvey of the highly distinguished Canadian scientist Gerhard Herzberg ("NRC Nobel Prize winner was a 'giant in his field,'" March 5). He was also a gentleman.

In 1990, when I was a lowly writer for a Jewish newspaper, I wrote to him asking for an interview, since I thought he was Jewish because of his Jewish-sounding name.

Shortly afterwards, he telephoned and told me that he was not Jewish but that, according to Jewish law, his children were because his late wife was of the Jewish faith.

I appreciated the fact that Dr. Herzberg phoned me because, in my experience, many eminent and ordinary people are arrogant and rude and do not deign to reply to your calls or letters.

Jacob Mendlovic, Toronto

Water is a staple of life, not a commodity for sale

Somehow the Citizen's editorial board has been misled to understand that the North American Free Trade Agreement protects Canada's water from trade or enhances our ability to act to protect it. ("Not a drop to export," Feb. 24).

Chapter 3 of NAFTA is explicit about our obligations in the trade of goods. It uses the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) definition of a "good," which clearly lists, "waters, including natural or artificial waters and aerated waters ... ice and snow" and adds in an explanatory note that "ordinary natural water of all kinds (other than sea water)" is included. This illustrates why the government's distinction of "water in its natural state" is without merit. Our government had until January, 1996, to list exclusions to NAFTA. We did make several exclusions, including fish and lumber, but water was not among them.

Former U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor confirmed that this was the intent of the trade deals in a 1993 letter to a U.S. environmental group. Toronto- and Washington-based trade lawyer and NAFTA expert, Barry Appleton, confirms this view.

The "proportionality" clause of the deal prohibits the government of a NAFTA country from reducing or restricting the export of a resource to another NAFTA country once the export flow has been established. This means that once we start exporting water, we can never turn off the tap.

The "investor state" provision of NAFTA allows a corporation to sue a government if it enacts legislation that restricts trade. If the government of Canada were to ban trade in water it would be open to suits for lost future profits. This is why, while it may be technically true that we can never be forced to trade our water, we certainly can be forced to pay millions or even billions of dollars for the right to control it. Are we seeing the beginning of a sovereignty debt that will burden future generations?

The Canadian government has been desperately trying to protect Canada's interests by going around NAFTA. It tried to do so when it banned the toxic fuel additive MMT, only to have the ban withdrawn last year after the U.S. manufacturer launched a lawsuit under NAFTA. It is trying to do the same on split-run magazines. We can now

add water to the list. By asking the provinces for a voluntary moratorium on water exports, the federal government has shown its reluctance to protect water by addressing the issue of trade head on. Since Quebec has not agreed to play along, we have begun the waiting game to see which province will be the first to trade water and commit the whole country to water exports. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy rightly states that if we ban water it paradoxically becomes subject to NAFTA and opens us to all sorts of litigation and exploitation. The only alternative therefore is to open up NAFTA and exempt water.

Those are facts. Not rhetoric, not high emotion.

Ironically, it is the proponents of water trade who want to characterize it as an emotionally charged, humanitarian issue. They ask how can we hoard our water in times of a global crisis? How can we be so inhumane? Global Water Corp.'s plan to ship water from Sitka, Alaska to China, where there is already a growing water crisis, is instructive. Is the water going to poor farmers and industrial workers? No. It is destined to be bottled in low-

wage free zones for sale to luxury hotels. This should surprise no one. Water trade is not targeted at those in need; it is targeted at those who can afford to pay. Profit depends on demand. There is no market incentive to ease that demand or lower prices to make water affordable. As scarcity and demand increase so will prices, making water less and less accessible. Those are the economics of the issue. It is not only inhumane but also wrongheaded to expect the commodification of water will ensure access to this staple of life. If market principles ensured the adequate distribution of food to the world's poor, millions wouldn't live in hunger.

You are absolutely justified in pointing out that North Americans are the worst masters of water in the world. That is why a solution must begin here. North America must lead the way, not only in sustainable water use, but in finding non-commercial ways to make sure everyone is assured access to a sufficient supply of safe, clean water as a basic human right.

Maude Barlow, Ottawa
National chairperson,
The Council of Canadians

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