

2003

This past year has been a busy and exciting one, a year full of challenges and accomplishments for the Council.

We have made some real strides toward realizing fair trade, safe food, clean water and public health. On the international stage, we had key wins at the WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun and at the World Water Forum in Kyoto, where we were able to derail the corporate agendas at play and work with developing countries to put forward the demands of global justice. In Canada, our chapters are increasingly resourceful and innovative in their work and provide a strong presence within activist circles and broader communities across this country. With a skilled staff, new positions and a sound foundation built by our Board of Directors, we are poised, as never before, to make a powerful impact in the coming year. We've had some key victories and are organizationally sound, but we recognize that corporate power is tenacious and will only relent under sustained pressure. We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. Together we are capable of meeting this challenge. I look forward to our work in 2004.

Maude Barlow

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



There are occasions when proclaiming your support for a progressive cause may seem hopeless. This isn't one of them.

In the past two years, the rise of not one but two global citizen movements to protect the safety of people's food from corporate control and stop the corporate takeover of the world's fresh water has led to a sea-change in both Canadian and international politics. Along with the recent collapse of World Trade Organization talks in Cancun, where at last developing nations and activists around the world found strength in numbers, these events are giving citizens everywhere a much-needed boost.

Earlier this year, the Council's Board met to clarify the Council's vision and work in the four broad program areas that, in recent years, have been the cornerstones of our campaigning and organizing success – fair trade, clean water, safe food and public health (see reports). Through the extraordinary efforts of members, chapter activists, staff and board, working with other organizations in Canada and around the world, we are advancing the alternatives and building the momentum for progressive change begun in those earlier years.

Because this work is increasingly international as well as national in scope, the Council has added to its numbers in recent months two new campaigners to work on our national water campaign and the growing fight against factory farming. We are also launching a major new effort to combat the growing pressures of U.S. and continental integration. And we have undertaken a further effort to find progressive, like-minded foundations prepared to contribute to this crucial and growing international work.

As always, however, it is the generous support that you and other dedicated Council members continue to show that allows us to build a strong campaigns-based organization and grassroots movement. Without your help none of the work of building a better country or a better world would be possible.

John Urquhart

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



FAIR TRADE



"If we judge the legitimacy of our economic system by the quality of life afforded the many, not the licence provided the few, the global economy is doing very badly indeed. The real goal of the WTO and the FTAA is to dramatically reduce or completely destroy the ability of governments anywhere to legislate on behalf of their citizens and to complete the transformation of the nation-state into one totally subservient to its corporate masters."

In advance of the ministerial meetings of the World Trade Organization in Cancun and the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Miami, the Council organized a 14-city "Making the Links" speaking tour featuring Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke. This was a key opportunity to speak to Canadians about the dangers of these deals. To support this work, the Council produced a booklet entitled "Making the Links," which is now available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Beyond hosting the public forums for the "Making the Links" tour, chapters organized a wide range of activities in opposition to the WTO and FTAA meetings. Public forums, festive carnivals, discussion cafés, demonstrations, marches, letters to the editor, and newspaper articles were just some of the ways that chapters expressed their belief that the Canadian government had "no mandate" to proceed with trade talks that ignored the needs of developing countries, put public services at risk of privatization, denied access of essential medicines to the sick, and viewed water as a mere commodity.

At the meetings in Cancun and Miami, the Council played a key role in attempting to derail the talks. Council activists strategized with our international partners, spoke to media from around the world, demonstrated (even inside the opening session of the WTO meeting), and were present when the talks collapsed. The key message that the Council brought to these venues was that "a better world is possible" and that corporate rights cannot trump human rights. In the coming months, the Council will continue to work in opposition to the WTO and the FTAA, highlight the existing dangers of the North American Free Trade Agreement (particularly the Chapter 11 "investor-state" clause), and begin to articulate what fair trade might look like globally.

SAFE FOOD



"There is no better example of greed and ruthlessness than the move to genetically engineer the world's food system and shift the role of agriculture from one that produced food for people to one that produces profits for food and drug corporations. In spite of the collusion of corporate and government power to promote a new and unproven technology, ordinary citizens are demanding the right to safe food and no longer believe the authorities who tell them all is well."

To raise public awareness of the federal government's potential approval of genetically engineered wheat in Canada, the Council undertook an 11-city "Planting the Seeds of Doubt" speaking tour. Along with partner organizations also concerned about this issue, the Council spoke with farmers in rural communities and consumers in urban centres about the dangers posed to our health and our agricultural markets if wheat were to be genetically engineered.

Council chapters have been active in the campaign for safe food. They have continued to press for the mandatory labelling of genetically engineered food (which is in place in more than 40 countries around the world), participated in establishing the new Beyond Factory Farming Coalition, were the key local organizers for the "Planting the Seeds of Doubt" national tour, and they even mailed in slices of bread to their Members of Parliament to demand action to protect our wheat from genetic engineering. The Council has also taken the lead in a legal challenge to be heard at the Supreme Court of Canada. The huge agri-chemical corporation Monsanto successfully sued Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser for "patent infringement" when their seeds were found growing on (and contaminating) his field. The Supreme Court will decide whether or not a farmer is legally responsible for infringing a corporate patent when, due to wind and insects, GE crops take root on their land.

Key goals of the campaign remain the long-term testing of genetically engineered food for health and environmental safety, mandatory labelling of all GE food, protecting our wheat, obtaining a moratorium on the expansion of intensive livestock operations, and ensuring that the corporate patenting of all life forms (seeds, plants and genes) does not continue.

CLEAN WATER

"Water must be declared a basic human right. This might sound elemental, but water corporations are seeking to have it declared a human need. This is not semantic. If water is a human need, it can be serviced by the private sector. You cannot sell a human right. If water is privatized and put on the open market for sale, it will go to those who can afford it, not to those who need it. Corporations have no right to deprive anyone of their inalienable human rights."

Prior to World Water Day and the World Water Forum meeting in Kyoto, the Council produced materials to help Canadians understand the dangers posed by corporations to water in Canada and around the world. Building on the success of the first international civil society conference on water organized by the Council in Vancouver two years earlier, we developed brochures and fact sheets and maintained a multilingual Blue Planet Project web site.

Chapters across the country came together to celebrate World Water Day and defend water as both a human right and as part of the global commons. They organized creative actions, spoke to their Members of Parliament, handed out information brochures to the public, and held public forums. Many chapters have also been active in their communities on issues of water extraction and water bottling, sending faxes and postcards to stop the bulk removal of water from the Tay River in Ontario, and many other water-related issues.

The Council won an important victory at the World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan. The meeting organized by corporate interests was intended to be an endorsement of water privatization globally. Instead, through the persistent presence and advocacy of Council activists, delegates to the forum repeatedly heard what happens in local communities when water is privatized and people are denied their basic human rights. The Council attracted international media attention and managed to sow division at the conference and deal a severe blow to the privatization agenda. Future efforts for the Council's water campaign will include renewing our presence in local "water watch" committees, organizing even larger events for World Water Day, being vocal at the next World Water Forum, and joining with our international allies to strategize at the People's Water Forum in India.



"Canada has adopted all the worst aspects of corporate globalization, and the values of public health care cannot co-exist with the soul-destroying values of the global economy. So how do people get their universal health care system back? By taking it back. By re-committing to the values that gave rise to them in the first place. By having the courage to stand up to governments and corporations and their agenda of privatization, deregulation and free trade."

Prior to the Romanow Commission Report on the Future of Health Care in Canada, the Council organized a 15-city "Profit Is Not the Cure" speaking tour. This tour reached thousands of Canadians and rallied them to defend public health care in this country. To support this work, both a booklet and then a book entitled "Profit Is Not the Cure" was produced, along with fact sheets, brochures and postcards. Council activists even met with Roy Romanow to give him the message that health care must be properly funded, that it should be expanded to include pharmacare and home care, and that it must be protected from international trade agreements.

In every city where the Romanow Commission held hearings, chapter activists were there in large numbers to give deputations, speak with the media, and rally outside with countless others. Chapters held public meetings in addition to hosting "Profit Is Not the Cure" forums, organized postcard campaigns, wrote letters and articles for their local newspapers, and connected with their provincial health coalitions to intensify the fight for public health care. Just days after the Prime Minister and the provincial premiers failed to act on the substantive recommendations of the Romanow Commission, the Council organized a "Prescription for Change" conference in Ottawa that attracted more than 1,000 citizens and health care activists from across the country. There, people heard from Maude Barlow, Shirley Douglas and others about the need to continue pressing for a renewed public health care system for Canada.

In the coming months, chapters from across the country will be speaking to the federal Standing Committee on Health to lobby for the need for a pharmacare program in Canada in order to make prescription drugs more accessible to the sick, to curb the outrageous profits of the pharmaceutical corporations, and to curtail the fastest growing cost within Medicare. The Council will also remain vocal on the WTO's TRIPS agreement and ensure that the drive for corporate profit doesn't further endanger those around the world lacking access to life-saving, essential medicines.



PUBLIC HEALTH

RESOURCES

The Council is proud to be fully independent of government and corporate influence and does not solicit any funds from these sources. We rely on the support of thousands of individuals, who contribute through their membership fees and other donations. We have again had a very successful year, as we received almost \$5 million from our loyal members.

We have provided a summary Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, which shows the sources of our revenue and how we spent this funding. We have used the revenue to fund our ongoing campaign activities, support the local chapters, keep our members informed through educational materials and our web site, and to host conferences, Board and Annual General Meetings. We are able to continue this work because of the generous contributions from our membership. Thank you!

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended August 31, 2003

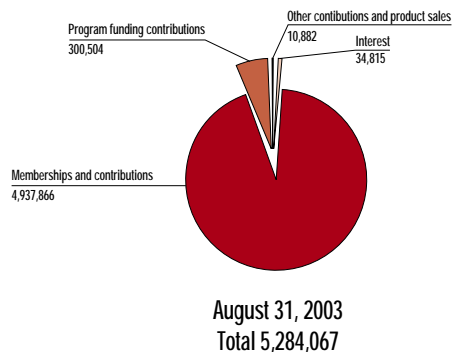
Revenue	August 31, 2003	August 31, 2002
Memberships and contributions	4,937,866	4,552,741
Program funding contributions	300,504	340,319
Interest	34,815	19,959
Other contributions and product sales	10,882	18,067
Total	5,284,067	4,931,086

Expenditures	August 31, 2003	August 31, 2002
Chapter funding	579,677	599,097
Campaigns and communications	1,089,934	1,195,750
Development	2,249,282	1,815,689
Meetings and Conferences	39,695	43,039
Newsletters	198,731	179,715
Administration and Program Support	964,464	986,156
Total	5,121,783	4,819,446

Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	162,284	111,640
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A copy of the complete financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2003, audited by Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP Chartered Accountants, is available from the Council upon request.

Revenue



Expenditures

