

# Monthly Donor Says Being with Council “Feels Like Home”

By Dana Chapeskie

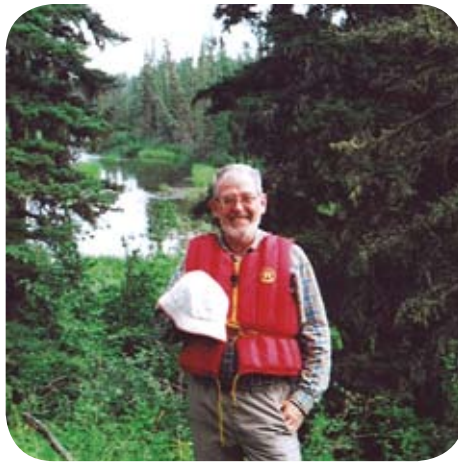
The Council of Canadians’ work often depends on being able to react quickly and effectively to issues – whether it’s mobilizing people to take action in support of World Water Day, holding press conferences across the country to counter claims of “free” trade by provincial and federal governments, or bringing members and activists from across the country together for our annual meeting – our work is made possible by the generous support of our members and donors.

Playing an integral role in sustaining these efforts is the Canada Plan, the Council’s monthly giving program. Stable, monthly donations provide us with the ability to react to urgent events, plan for the day-to-day needs of our core campaigns and fight for strong policies in support of public health care, water, energy and fair trade.

David Henry, a dedicated and long-term Council of Canadians donor, spoke to us recently about his decision to give on a monthly basis.

## Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

I live with my wife in a small town outside of Saskatoon called Aberdeen. I am an ecologist by training and have worked for Canadian national parks. I am very interested in environmental and social justice issues across Canada and globally as well. We are active in our local church, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, CPAWS and the Council of Canadians. We don’t have a local chapter where I live, but many of the people in other groups are also supporters of the Council of Canadians. We are fortunate to live in a close-knit community. We have been retired for about a year now and quite enjoying it. This winter we volunteered on a community development project in Nicaragua for six weeks.



David Henry, a member of the Council of Canadians’ Canada Plan, says he enjoys the flexibility and consistency of monthly giving.

## Why did you get involved with the Council of Canadians? What inspires you to give?

I became active with the Council almost 10 years ago since the issues that the Council identifies as their priorities – such as water as a human right – I view as really important for this country and globally as well. I am very pleased to see the Council more involved with the tar sands in Alberta because of the huge impact it will have in northern Canada with the pollution. I am also very concerned about nuclear power and uranium mining issues, which seem to be in the forefront again in Saskatchewan. The Council’s work to defend our public health care system, and to fight the SPP and other trade agreements developed by unelected officials and imposed on the Canadian society are also imperative. The vast campaign work performed is the reason I am so impressed with the Council of Canadians and the good progress they are making on these issues.

I attended the annual general meeting in Edmonton last fall and it was the first annual meeting of the Council of Canadians I had been to. I really liked the people that I met there and I felt very much at home. They were my kind of people and that just increased my enthusiasm for the organization and its membership. I really enjoyed participating.

## Why did you decide to join the monthly giving program, the Canada Plan?

I find giving monthly on the Canada Plan convenient for my budget, which is increasingly important in retirement. If you donate a certain amount of money every month the Council can count on that support and plan how they are going to use it effectively. The convenience and budget certainty applies on both sides. It is good for the Council and it is good for the donors. I want my support to be as productive as possible with the Council, which is why I give on a monthly basis.

## BECOME A CANADA PLAN MEMBER TODAY!

Joining the Canada Plan is easy. You can call our membership department at 1-800-387-7177 and ask for Dana, or sign up on our website at [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org). Just click on “join us” and then “monthly giving.” Canada Plan members authorize the Council to make monthly withdrawals from their chequing account or credit card in an amount of their choosing. The plan is very flexible: members can increase, decrease, postpone or cancel monthly support at any time simply by contacting us. Canada Plan members automatically have their membership renewed every year, and receive copies of *Canadian Perspectives* magazine throughout the year. The Council of Canadians adheres to current Canadian privacy legislation and ensures any personal information provided is kept strictly confidential.

If you have not already done so, please consider becoming a Canada Plan member. With your help, we will continue to respond quickly and effectively to the issues important to our members.

Dana Chapeskie is the Administrative Officer (Member Services) for the Council of Canadians.