

Letters to the Editor

Members of Council of Canadians staff Meera Karunanathan, Mark Calzavara, Maryam Adrangi and Stuart Trew join members of the our Toronto chapter to talk to teachers with the Toronto District School Board about the Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan investment in private water services in Chile.



Indigenous solidarity for the right to water and sanitation

The Chiefs of Ontario applauds and fully supports the United Nations resolution that access to clean water and sanitation are human rights.

Too many First Nations in Ontario and Canada do not have access to water as a basic human right, a situation that is deplorable and is well known in both the Ontario and Canadian governments. The Constance Lake First Nation of 900 people in Ontario who are presently without access to drinking water is but one example of the desperate situation that exists on countless First Nations in Ontario across the country.

The fact that Canada was among the 41 nations that chose to abstain and not express support for this UN resolution is a sad reflection of the selfish policy of a wealthy nation and the continued lack of commitment to providing our people with yet another fundamental necessity in the quest for a better standard of living enjoyed by other Canadians.

We share in common many of the same principles and goals with the Council of Canadians and are interested in working together to raise awareness and promote the fact that all people have basic human rights. When speaking of human rights we begin the conversation with the rights of our Indigenous brothers and sisters throughout the world as we continue to advocate for the recognition of our outstanding issues locally, regionally and nationally.

We would be pleased to work together for the enrichment of the lives of all

Canadians in the spirit of goodwill and sharing.

Angus Toulouse
Ontario Regional Chief

How about a bucket brigade?

When the Throne Speech was read in the Ontario Legislature last spring, reference was made to an impending world water crisis and to Ontario's opportunity to help purify polluted water.

However, soon after that there was media coverage that suggested that Premier McGuinty is anxious to get a big share of that water market. The article makes reference to "capitalization of Ontario's vast fresh water supply" and becoming a "global player" in the water market.

I wonder if Premier McGuinty cares or understands about the implications of NAFTA if water is treated as a good? I also wonder if he thinks a bucket brigade (of Canadians) from Lake Superior to Nevada and California will solve our employment problems?

Robert C. Griffin
Dundas, Ontario

We need proportional representation

I see your generous efforts and tireless caring for Canadians, our sovereignty and our precious values. Thank you to all of you who are working for all of us!

I am concerned, however, that without a change in our electoral system and the present five major political parties, our deplorable political situation will continue. It puts our constitutionally based democracy in great danger. Can we address this with impartiality and non-

partisanship? I think so.

Catherine Kroetch
Salmon Arm, B.C.

Editor's note: *The Council of Canadians supports proportional representation and believes that it is more democratic than our current electoral system. It ensures a fairer representation of votes cast, and prevents a governing party from holding total power after earning only a small percentage of the popular vote, which is the case now with the first-past-the-post system. We will continue to promote proportional representation provincially and nationally.*

Send us your letters!

If you have something to say about an article you have read in *Canadian Perspectives*, or an issue you think would interest our readers, please write to us. We reserve the right to edit your letter for clarity and length. Letters must include your full name, address and phone number.

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