



2009 Annual Report

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As our organization celebrates 25 years of acting for social justice in 2010, we continue to be the voice of people nationally and internationally on the issues that matter most to Canadians.

Today, Canadians are feeling the impacts of two major crises — the economic crisis that hurts families, jobs and our sense of economic stability in the deepening recession, and a growing environmental crisis as years of pollution have led us to catastrophic climate change, water scarcity and threatened ecosystems.

It is time to do things differently. For years we have been told that unlimited growth, unregulated free trade and economic globalization would bring prosperity to all. But this flawed free market model has proven not to work, and has been left crumbled in the wake of the economic downturn. Still, governments are forging ahead. What we are seeing is the “perfect storm” of new trade deals on the horizon that threaten local democracy, our public services and natural resources. There are other answers — better answers — to the crises we face: more local and sustainable food production and fair trade, stronger social programs, and a national water policy and energy strategy to protect our resources.

As always, I continue to be inspired by the thousands of Council members and supporters I meet on this journey. For 25

years we have done this work together, and the many actions and efforts of our organization would not be possible without your generosity and commitment. I look to the coming year and many future years with renewed hope that our actions can truly make a difference and bring a fairer, more just world.

Maude Barlow
National Chairperson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The goals of social, economic and environmental justice have never been more important. Whether it's working for a Canadian Energy Strategy that focuses on a transition to renewable and sustainable energy sources; meaningful action on climate change; protecting our water from exports, diversions and contamination; strengthening our public health care system; or building better and fairer trade systems, our organization shows how people can make positive and progressive changes possible.

We celebrated several significant wins during the past year. We dealt the final blow to the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America. We joined with thousands of concerned people to help shut down a landfill project known



as Dump Site 41 in Simcoe County, Ontario, that threatened some of the purest water on Earth. We held a hugely successful “Blue Summit,” bringing water activists from across the country together to reach common goals. And our chapters successfully put all of our campaign issues into action in communities across Canada.

This year, we celebrate 25 years of acting for social justice. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of dedicated Council members who continue to remind us what people in action can do.

Garry Neil
Acting Executive Director

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

The Council of Canadians' work is built on a strong foundation of timely and strategic campaigns. Through our campaigns we continue to fight for the values, social programs and progressive policies that Canadians believe in.

There are many people who help in these efforts, including our thousands of members and supporters across the country and around the world, our tireless chairperson, Maude Barlow, our national board of directors, our staff in Ottawa and in our regional offices across Canada, and our committed chapter activists who put these campaigns and progressive issues into action in more than 70 communities across Canada.



Because we are a membership-based organization, these efforts are almost entirely supported by generous contributions from like-minded people who support the citizen advocacy work of the Council of Canadians. Together, we give people a voice. Our independence as an organization is maintained by not accepting any money from corporations or governments. You can read more about our finances and expenditures at the end of this report.

We look back on 2009 as a year marked by many encouraging wins. Here are some of our campaign highlights.

WE DEFEATED THE SPP!

As the fifth annual North American Leaders Summit approached, it became clear that the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), a secretive deal made by the former Martin Liberal government with the governments of the United States and Mexico, had become too politically hot to handle.

We went to Guadalajara, Mexico, in August for the North American Leaders' Summit, joining labour organizations and other concerned groups in exposing how the SPP put corporate interests ahead of public interests. We questioned its undemocratic process — the deal was never brought to Parliament for a debate, let alone a vote — and the wide-ranging threats it posed to civil liberties, health and safety standards, and our natural resources.

OUR VOICES WERE HEARD.

Five years ago we started to fight the “deep integration” agenda of the SPP. In that time, people from across the country contacted their MPs asking their representatives to say “no” to it. Our chapters held hundreds of events including film screen-

ings, panels and information tables. In 2007 we organized a teach-in that brought hundreds to Ottawa to learn more about the SPP and find out what they could do to stop it. And we mobilized hundreds more to the 2008 Montebello summit in Quebec to tell Prime Minister Stephen Harper to get rid of the SPP. The message resonated: the SPP has been scrapped and the deal is now dead.

But as we celebrate the end of the SPP, it has become clear that corporate leaders, many of whom were behind the SPP, are still at work remaking the country to conform to new free trade deals. Provincial governments are looking at interprovincial trade deals to minimize regulations on businesses, and the Canadian government is forging ahead with more bilateral trade deals with impacts that threaten to exceed NAFTA in their scope.

TRADE

The Council of Canadians has a strong history of speaking out against trade deals that hurt people, the environment and social policies. We continue to fight for trade agreements that put citizens' rights before corporate profits.

Buy American legislation and proposed trade deals with Peru, Colombia and the European Union are just a few examples of the Canadian government's growing “free trade” push. These deals could threaten human rights and public services like health care, open up our water resources to multinational water corporations, and lower the standards and regulations that keep our food and products safe.

We took this message on the road in October and November with an eight-city tour in Ontario with CUPE Ontario. With

our education materials, we encouraged people to take action in their communities to press local governments for fair trade deals.

We exposed the real deal behind the sudden surge of interprovincial agreements such as the Trade and Investment Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between British Columbia and Alberta, and a new trade deal between the governments of Ontario and Quebec, with our hard-hitting report, *State of Play: Canada's Internal Free Trade Agenda*.

At the national level, we sounded the alarm about NAFTA. While U.S. President Barack Obama's promise to renegotiate the deal fizzled out, we continued to call on the federal government to reopen the agreement to remove Chapter 11, the investor-state dispute mechanism that allows corporations to sue the government for millions of dollars when policies aimed at protecting public and environmental interests interfere with their ability to make profits. We continue to educate about Chapter 11 cases, and question the legitimacy of any trade deal that allows corporate interests to trump public interests.

We also confronted the global trade agenda at the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in December. As a member of the Our World Is Not for Sale network, we joined more than 200 civil society representatives from more than 40 countries to demand an immediate halt to the current round of WTO negotiations; a reversal of existing WTO commitments that limit government action on the environment, finance and job creation; and an honest response to how corporate-led



globalization has impacted local and national economies.

WATER

Our water campaign focuses on securing a National Water Policy that recognizes water as a human right and protects our rivers, lakes and groundwater from privatization, pollution and bulk exports. Canada needs a strong policy that ensures our water resources are not only properly mapped, but also publicly maintained and protected from trade agreements like NAFTA and the proposed Canada-European Union trade deal, which could open up Canada's water to private interests worldwide. We convinced the Liberal Party of Canada to adopt a resolution calling for a National Water Policy that recognizes water as a human right and will press other political parties to make the right to water an issue in any future federal elections.

In 2009 we brought the message of safe, clean, accessible water to communities across Canada by mobilizing thousands of Canadians for World Water Day. Council chapters in communities across the country took part in creative events and actions to inform and educate the public about pressing water issues in our country. On a cold evening in March, we "Painted Parliament Blue," lighting up the Peace Tower with brilliant blue lights to remind people about the importance of water as a natural resource and life source.

We are also turning communities "blue" with our Blue Communities Project. Working with allied groups including First Nations, Quebec-based Eau Secours, CUPE and others, we are giving people the tools they need to encourage local



governments to adopt a common framework for water that, in addition to recognizing water as a human right, promotes publicly financed water and waste-water facilities, and bans the purchase and sale of bottled water in public facilities.

We are also convincing people to ditch the bottle as part of our successful "Unbottle It!" campaign. We joined with CUPE Ontario for a 21-city tour and encouraged people to become part of the growing movement to ban the sale of bottled water in municipalities, at school boards and on university campuses. Our efforts have led to bottled water bans in more than 60 communities across Canada. Our work was further reinforced by the Canadian Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the umbrella organization of municipal governments across the country, which — following our lobby efforts — called on local governments to implement bottled water bans and support the provision of public water in municipal buildings.

We are working in coalition with other organizations to stop a federal government plan to turn some Canadian lakes into toxic dump sites for mining companies. In 2009 we visited Sandy Pond in Newfoundland and Fish Lake in British Columbia — both freshwater lakes have been tagged as "tailings impoundment areas" for mining waste. We called on the federal government to close the loophole in the Mining Act that allows mining companies to destroy valuable ecosystems.

Our water work overflowed in November as we joined CUPE in bringing hundreds of water activists to Ottawa to mark the tenth anniversary of Water Watch Committees. Water activists shared sto-

ries and strategies and highlighted ways we can all ensure water is protected as a public resource both here in Canada and around the world. The Blue Summit culminated with the signing of a declaration by groups and organizations dedicated to building water as a public trust available to all.

WE HELPED STOP SITE 41

The Council of Canadians was there as municipal councillors in Simcoe County, Ontario, voted "no" to a landfill project that threatened what some scientists called "the purest water in the world."

We joined community residents and First Nations — who had protested the proposed landfill site for more than 25 years, saying it would cause irreparable harm to the aquifer — in the fight to stop Dump Site 41. Council of Canadians members, supporters and chapter activists contributed immensely to this campaign, giving support through donations, writing thousands of letters, and making phone calls to stop the dump. Our efforts were featured in numerous media stories, and the story of how community residents, farmers and activists came together to stop the dump gained national attention. Through all of these actions, we were able to create the political pressure needed to halt landfill construction. Congratulations to everyone who took part in this highly successful campaign.

BLUE PLANET PROJECT

The Council of Canadians continued to fight for water justice internationally. Working with allied partners and organizations, our Blue Planet Project staff and National Chairperson Maude Barlow have sounded the alarm that the world is running out of safe, clean water.



In the fall of 2009, Maude Barlow completed her term as Senior Advisor on Water Issues to the President of the 63rd United Nations General Assembly. During her time as Senior Advisor, she spoke at events around the world about the growing water crisis. She brought the message about the urgent need to declare water a human right directly to the United Nations, delivering a speech to delegates last April as part of Earth Day 2009 celebrations.

At the World Water Forum, we took on the corporate bigwigs from multinational water corporations and financial institutions who want to privatize water and make it a commodity that can be bought and sold. We countered the corporate voices with the message that water is a human right and part of a commons that should be available to everyone.

The Blue Planet Project also helped organize many actions through the year, including Blue October and actions drawing the links between climate change and its impacts on water at UN climate change negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark.

ENERGY

With growing concern about the grim realities of climate change and diminishing energy resources globally, the Council of Canadians ramped up its call for a Canadian Energy Strategy that would give Canadians security of energy supplies, and strong policies that protect our environment and focus on renewable and sustainable energy solutions.

We began 2009 with a National Day of Action in Support of a Canadian Energy Strategy. Our chapters used the day to call on the federal government to create an energy strategy that puts Canadians' needs first and encourages a transition to

renewable energy resources. A main focus of our work was to raise awareness of the devastating environmental and social impacts of the tar sands. We delivered our video, *The Dark Side of the Boom: Canada's Mordor* to all Members of Parliament, and thousands more viewed it on YouTube. Council chapters made the day of action a success by holding events in communities across the country.

Pressing for immediate government action on climate change was also central to our efforts this year. In October, Council chapters organized and took part in events across the country for a global day of action on climate change. We joined the global call for a new climate change deal with firm emission reduction targets and hosted "Climate (of) Change: Rally for people and the planet," where hundreds of people hit the streets in Saint John, New Brunswick, as part of our Annual General Meeting. Soon after, we released an in-depth research report titled *Green, Decent and Public*, looking at the pressing need for green jobs and a transition to renewable energy resources.

In December, we brought the message of the urgent need for climate change action to Copenhagen, Denmark, for COP15, the 15th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Participating and leading sessions at the People's Summit and attending events and demonstrations, the Council of Canadians joined with activists and organizations as part of the global climate justice movement. Under the banner "system change, not climate change," we highlighted how increasing corporate power, growth-driven economic models

and trading systems are causing serious social and ecological harm. With social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter, we were able to send up-to-the-minute updates and encourage Canadians across the country to take action on this important issue.

Regionally, our chapters and members continued to work on local energy concerns. From getting a uranium mining ban in Nova Scotia, to opposing new nuclear reactor proposals in Alberta, calling for public and community green power in Ontario, to fighting Run of River projects in British Columbia that are set to privatize hundreds of local waterways, we made a difference in communities across the country.

HEALTH CARE

Through our health care campaign we are fighting to ensure governments protect and enhance public health care and end the privatization assault that is now spreading across Canada. We joined with provincial and national health care groups pushing for a stronger public health care system and fighting privatization proposals. Our chapters and members were there in communities across the country saying "no" to private health care.

We are supporting a legal challenge in British Columbia as the local health coalition is poised to square off against Dr. Brian Day, a private clinic owner and proponent of private health care. In Calgary, our chapter joined the fight against Conservative government health care cuts. In Campbell River, B.C., we rallied against hospital service cuts and health care privatization. In Ontario, our chapters continue to fight to save hospital

services and get more municipal funding of health care services when provincial funding falls short. Across the country, our chapters and members are telling their elected officials that private health care means you pay more and get less, and that Canadians want a strengthened public health care system.

CHAPTERS IN ACTION

Part of the Council's strength comes from our chapters. With concerned and active members in more than 70 communities across the country, our chapters provide a strong voice to local, regional and national issues. Through regular meetings, public events and actions, interactions with the media, and getting involved in issues in their communities, Council chapters act as the true government watchdog.

Over the past year, our chapters have been instrumental in securing key wins. Whether it was securing bottled water bans in their communities, fighting health care privatization, challenging politicians on the secretive SPP agenda, raising awareness about the negative impacts of the 2010 Winter Olympics, or rallying in support of a Canadian Energy Strategy and a National Water Policy, our chapters gave true meaning to the phrase "communities in action." Chapters helped organize regional tours to raise awareness about uranium mining and

tar sands impacts, fought water and health care privatization, pressed the government for immediate action on climate change, rallied against the tar sands and its devastating environmental impacts, and worked in communities to raise public awareness about issues that affect us all. Chapter activists appeared almost daily in local and regional newspapers, radio and television news reports, raising even more public awareness about our campaigns and issues of concern in their communities.

RESOURCES

Our work is made possible by the generosity of like-minded Canadians who believe social, economic and environmental justice is in everyone's best interest. With your membership and generous donations, we moved our campaigns forward in 2009. We garnered hundreds of media hits; organized major events here in Canada and around the world; held conferences and speaking tours; produced educational fact sheets, brochures and reports; wrote blogs; updated our website regularly; and delivered hard-hitting stories in our magazine, *Canadian Perspectives*.

These remarkable achievements are made possible by our generous members' financial contributions. More than \$4.6 million was received from memberships and contributions this fiscal year, which represents 92 per cent of total

revenue. We have provided a Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenditure that shows our sources of revenue and how we spent this funding.

There are many ways you can contribute to our work. By becoming a member of the Council of Canadians, joining our monthly giving plan, contributing to our Citizens' Agenda Fund, or planning a legacy gift, your generous support gives our organization a voice on the social, economic and political issues that will help us build a strong, independent and diverse Canada.

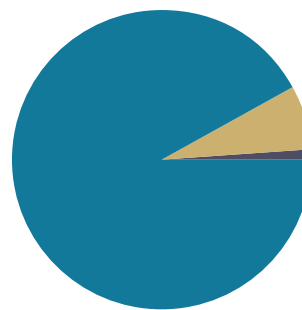
A most heartfelt thank you to all of our donors for supporting our work!

The Council of Canadians would like to extend a special thank you to members of our Citizens' Agenda Fund (CAF). Leadership-level contributions from CAF members have played a crucial role in the progress our citizens' movement made in 2009. Please visit our website at www.canadians.org/join to see a list of our CAF members. We thank them for their extraordinary contributions.

**THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS:
SUMMARY STATEMENT
OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE**

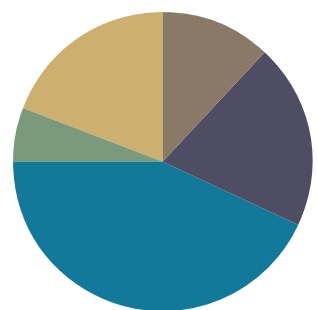
For the Year Ended June 30, 2009

		June 30, 2009	June 30, 2008
Revenue			
Memberships & contributions - 92%	92%	\$4,661,561	\$5,113,085
Program funding contributions - 7%	7%	344,406	285,277
Interest & other - 1%	1%	61,158	79,659
Total Revenue	100%	5,067,125	5,478,021
Expenditure			
Chapter funding - 12%	12%	661,849	680,339
Campaigns & communications - 20%	20%	1,061,696	997,317
Development - 43%	43%	2,286,325	2,277,886
Meetings, conferences, newsletters - 6%	6%	298,054	250,743
Admin & program support - 19%	19%	989,790	986,929
Total Expenditure	100%	5,297,714	5,193,214
Excess of revenue over expenditure for the year		(\$230,589)	\$284,807



**REVENUE SOURCES
2008-2009**

- Memberships & contributions - 92%
- Program funding contributions - 7%
- Interest & other - 1%



**EXPENDITURES
2008-2009**

- Development - 43%
- Campaigns & communications - 20%
- Admin & program support - 19%
- Chapter funding - 12%
- Meetings, conferences, newsletters - 6%