

Letters to the Editor

On March 22, World Water Day, the Council of Canadians delivered more than 56,000 petitions from our members to Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling for a National Water Policy that bans bulk water exports and protects Canada's fresh water resources. This action was one of many happening across Canada in the interest of public water.

PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CANADA-EU DEAL

I recently attended a presentation on the proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union. This endeavour has been playing out almost completely below the radar since negotiations began in May 2009. Everyone — with the possible exception of the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador — seems to be 100 per cent behind it. The federal, provincial and territorial representatives and negotiators have indicated that the first round of negotiations exceeded their expectations. They are now preparing to go for the “Big Deal,” a free trade agreement far more ambitious than NAFTA.

A senior B.C. government official has reportedly indicated that successful Canada-EU negotiations might serve to reinvigorate World Trade Organization talks (which were derailed in the Doha round). The menace of unlimited free trade, which has gutted Canadian industry, eroded our self-sufficiency and threatened our sovereignty, has evidently morphed into a process perceived as benign simply because of the EU's involvement.

The Canadian public's passive attitude towards (and lack of knowledge of) the Canada-EU talks is disturbing. I urge the Council to cover this issue in more detail.

Brian Mason

Victoria, B.C.

Editor's note: Please see our article on the proposed Canada—European Union free trade agreement on pages 22 and 23 of this issue of *Canadian Perspectives*. The Council has been at the forefront of opposition to this proposed deal and raising awareness about the serious risks it poses to water and public services. Check out our website at www.canadians.org for regular updates and resources.

CONSERVATIVES TAKING WRONG PATH

I am so very incensed at the road down which the Conservatives have led us in a

short time. The reputation of our country has been sullied and more importantly, we are heading to a dead end as a result of their “out-of-their-right-mind” policies and practices. What are we to do? I would like to know why and how the most recent prorogation of Parliament was allowed. Is there some course of action in Canadian law whereby the voice of the people can be heard again?

Thank you for the actions you have taken — keep up the pressure. We hope for results that will put us on the road that so many Canadians want to follow: an ecologically sound path with room for innovation, a greater consciousness of the destructive road that our government has put us on, and lots more news and information about the commodification of water and what it means for the world.

Miriam Ferstman

Ste. Agathe des Monts, Québec

UNBOTTLE IT! CAMPAIGN HELPS EDUCATE

The Environmental Club at East Northumberland Secondary School is selling eco-friendly stainless steel water bottles for a greener, cleaner environment. We had a display of these bottles at a Council of Canadians meeting in Cobourg, Ontario. We have since been using some of the information contained in the Council's “Unbottle It!” booklet during morning announcements and in other venues to help sell the stainless steel water bottles at school.

We have been fundraising to build a renewable energy system (wind and solar) at our school. All profits raised through the sale of our water bottles will go towards this renewable energy project. By working with our local community groups, clubs, organizations, businesses, staff and students, we raised enough money to install a wind turbine at the school last June.

The Environmental Club

East Northumberland Secondary School, Ontario



This year the Council of Canadians is celebrating 25 years of acting for social justice in communities across Canada. To help us commemorate this remarkable achievement, we will be gathering stories and photos of past Council events and bringing them to life in a future issue of *Canadian Perspectives*, on our website and at our annual meeting October 22-24 in Ottawa, Ontario. Help us celebrate our shared history and an even brighter future!

Send your photos, stories and memories to:

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