

Don't Gamble



With Canada

Don't gamble with Canada's water!

Right now, some of the world's biggest corporations are eyeing our water.

No wonder. Canada is a major source of the world's fresh water. The World Bank has estimated the global water market to be worth \$800 billion. And European corporate giants like Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux and Vivendi would love nothing better than to corner the market in Canadian water and water delivery systems.

There's just one problem. Canadian water and water delivery systems are, for the most part, publicly owned and controlled. But if the World Trade Organization (WTO) gets its way, our water won't be public for long.

The WTO defines water as a "good," and under the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), no country is allowed to prohibit the export of a good.

What's more, under the WTO's little-known **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)**, local public water utilities could soon find themselves pushed aside by much bigger, for-profit corporations that specialize in water treatment and delivery.

That's because negotiations are under way to apply the free-market rules of the GATS to all services—government and non-government—federal, provincial and municipal. That means that everything from drinking water to sewer services to wastewater treatment could soon be privatized and controlled by for-profit companies.

Under proposed changes to the GATS, Canadian tax dollars could soon be supporting not only public non-profit water delivery, but private for-profit water corporations. Corporations would enjoy the profits; the public and the public system would bear the costs.

That's bad news for public control of our water. And it's bad news for the right of every Canadian to clean, affordable drinking water. Because when profits come first, people come second.

Citizens, policymakers and water conservationists need to intervene to stop the expansion of the GATS. What's now on the table would mean nothing less than forcing governments to submit all environmental and social objectives in water policy to international trade and investment imperatives.

Our water is too precious to be privatized or traded away.

Send a message to Ottawa:
Don't gamble with Canada's water.
Tell the federal government to
Get out of the GATS!

Call, write or fax your Member of Parliament and Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew.

Ask them to withdraw from the GATS negotiations—*now*.

(To get your MP's name and phone number, call 1 800 267-7360.)

Write to: Pierre Pettigrew

Minister for International Trade
507 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: (613) 995-8872
Fax.: (613) 995-9926
Email: PettiP@parl.gc.ca



Join The Council of Canadians' campaign to stop the GATS.
For more information call 1 800 387-7177
Or visit our Web site at www.canadians.org

