



The WTO: What in the world it means to Canada's water and forests

The newspaper headline says it all: "Canada giving away its precious water." In a world where fresh water will be the crisis of the next century, Canadian governments are allowing private bottlers the right to export top quality designer drinking water - free of charge. That's a \$200-million-a-year business that in only one province - British Columbia - pays royalties. But if U.S. officials get their way, bottled water will only be a trickle compared to the real gusher - bulk water exports and water diversion projects.

At the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle this November, U.S. and European negotiators will be pushing to include water and wastewater services as part of the WTO talks. If they're successful, Canadian municipalities could soon lose control of local water services to competing private international corporations - and corporations could be given the right to export bulk water abroad for profit.

The WTO is the most powerful international institution on the planet. Its stated goal is to liberalize trade, but it also has the clout to strike down domestic laws that are seen as too trade restrictive.

Water is already included in the WTO as a "good," and Article XI of the WTO prohibits export controls of any good, even for environmental purposes.

Also at risk during WTO talks is Canada's forest conservation. Again, led by timber companies, the U.S. is advocating elimination of tariffs on all timber products by 2003. Canada already leads the world in wood exports, and this global free trade logging agreement will spur even greater deforestation in Canada.

With elimination of tariff barriers, there's little doubt that global timber companies will be sawing their way through Canadian forests without regard to either conservation or sustainability.

Here's what you can do to help keep Canada's health care and education free from international commercialization:

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

Ask them to oppose any new deals at the WTO.
(To get your MP's name and phone number, call 1 800 267-7360.)

Write to: Pierre Pettigrew
Minister of 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

- ▶ **Inform and mobilize your community.**
- ▶ **Write a letter to your local paper.**
- ▶ **Organize an event.**
- ▶ **Talk about the Seattle WTO negotiations and the corporate threats to Medicare, public education, environmental protections and labour standards.**
- ▶ **Lobby your provincial elected representative and ask your city council to adopt a resolution opposing any new deals at the WTO.**



A SHADOW ON OUR FUTURE

For more information on the campaign to stop new WTO deals and how to join call **1 800 387-7177**. Or log on to **www.canadians.org** for updates on campaign activities and a calendar of campaign events in your area.



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