



21 September 2009

Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for your commitment to public water and the environment.

Over the past year, municipalities throughout Canada have been actively working to enhance their local environment, to reduce waste and protect their water resources by phasing out the provision and sale of bottled water.

Of the many different services that municipalities provide, it is often said that no service is as critical to the health of citizens as the supply of clean water. The decision to phase out bottled water on municipal property and promote public municipal water shows real leadership.

We want to thank you for the leadership you have shown on this issue. Right now in Canada 70 municipalities from 8 provinces and 1 territory have followed your lead and taken action on bottled water. Additionally the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO), the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) have all endorsed municipal efforts to restrict bottled water. Meanwhile, across the country school boards, universities, unions, and private enterprises are catching on and taking action.

Many municipalities have implemented innovative projects to provide accessible drinking water in city facilities, promote the quality and accessibility of municipal drinking water, and phase out the bottle. We would be pleased to discuss the range of options available to you in more detail.

It is clear that bottled water is no substitute for the public tap; however, some people have not yet heard the message. Increasingly industry lobbyists for many large bottled water providers have been contacting municipalities urging them to rescind their bottled water policies. Perhaps you have already been contacted. In some cases money for recycling projects has been offered in return for a policy reversal. We want to encourage you not to be fooled. Efforts need to be directed at reducing waste rather than on creating markets for plastic products that are harmful to produce and transport and require tremendous resources to recycle. Recycling is not the answer to bottled water, strong public water services are.

We want to once again thank you for your leadership on this issue and encourage you to further expand your efforts to promote municipal water. Should you have any questions or concerns we would be glad to discuss them further.

With Regards

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