

Take the Plunge: Bottled Water Action Options for Nova Scotia Municipalities

Phase out the sale and distribution of bottled water in City/Town facilities

- Prohibit the use of municipal government funds to purchase or distribute bottled water. Why not start with City/Town Hall (Council meetings, bottled water available in department offices) and develop a strategy to phase out bottled water in city facilities and sponsored events
- Begin dialogue with vendors in City/Town owned and leased space towards ending the sale of bottled water
- Remove bottled water sold in vending machines in City/Town owned and leased space (develop a provision regarding bottled water for upcoming agreement renewals)

Providing and promoting alternatives to bottled water

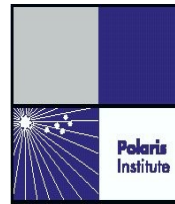
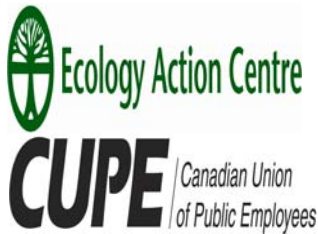
- Establish a municipal policy that mandates a cross-departmental team to audit the viability of switching to bottle-less water dispensers in City/Town owned and leased spaces.
- Provide access to municipal water in City/Town owned and leased spaces by maintaining, and installing new municipal water infrastructure, such as water fountains and well water systems.
- Commit to providing water-dispensing units (stationary or removable, such as water trucks that connect to fire hydrants) at City/Town organized and sponsored special events.
- Start a municipal water awareness campaign that encourages municipal water consumption in City/Town buildings. Work towards extending this awareness campaign to the broader public of the community.

'Right-to-know' policies

- Ensure that residents can access information about companies using municipal tap water or groundwater in the area (where jurisdictions apply) including the number of water bottlers in the municipality, company names, amount of water extracted and rates charged on a daily basis.

Foster accountability

- Develop and implement policies that enhance accountability including transparency and public consultation around the approval of the use of water for water bottling.



Take the Plunge: Bottled Water Municipal Examples

Across Canada and the United States municipalities have taken action on bottled water. Here are a just a few examples of municipal actions that limit or end the use of bottled water and promote the consumption of tap water.

- *St. John's, Newfoundland:* City Council banned the use of city money for the purpose of providing bottled water on city property, including during city-hosted events.
- *Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island:* City Council made the decision to stop purchasing bottled water.
- *Altona, Manitoba:* Municipality decided to get rid of water coolers and bottled water in its offices
- *Region of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia:* Council voted to launch a public campaign to support tap water and to encourage local municipalities to phase out the availability of bottled water in civic centres and install more water fountains.
- *Toronto, Ontario:* City Council passed a comprehensive bottled water motion that prohibited the sale or distribution of bottled water and provided alternatives for the provision of accessible tap water.
- *United States Conference of Mayors* passed a resolution encouraging mayors to phase out city spending on bottled water and to promote the importance of municipal water.

Canadian Statistics:

- 17 Municipalities in Canada have implemented restrictions on bottled water
- 40+ Municipalities in Canada are currently exploring restrictions on bottled water

CASE STUDY: CITY OF LONDON, ONTARIO

In August 2008 the City of London passed a comprehensive bottled water motion that banned the sale or distribution of bottled water and provided alternatives for the provision of accessible tap water. Here are the details of the City of London's approach to bottled water:

- Phase out the sale or distribution of bottled water from City Hall.
- Phase out the sale and distribution of bottled water at all City-owned and operated facilities, including in vending machines.
- Increase the availability of tap water in City facilities, where required.
- Launch a public awareness campaign that promotes the consumption of tap water as safe, high quality and convenient alternative to bottled water.
- Ensure that portable outdoor water trucks/trailers are available for outdoor city hosted and sponsored events.
- Direct City staff to follow an implementation schedule that ensures that municipal water is readily available.

For More Information visit, www.insidethebottle.org.