

March 2016

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

WORLD WATER DAY – MARCH 22

Public water and wastewater services are vital to our lives and are fundamental human rights. They are the foundation of safe and healthy communities. But these services are threatened by underfunding, privatization and international trade deals.

This year, CUPE is launching a one-hour workshop highlighting actions member can take in their community, and as part of the movement for safe drinking water for all Indigenous communities. You'll find the materials at cupe.ca/union-education.

We also encourage members to work in coalition with local Council of Canadians chapters on the Blue Communities project. This initiative focuses on resolutions for municipalities and Indigenous communities to recognize the right to water, end the municipal use of bottled water, and promote fully public water and wastewater systems. Get involved at cupe.ca/water.

At our 2015 national convention, delegates adopted a Strategic Directions plan that keeps anti-privatization work at the heart of our union's mandate. We will continue to build workers' power and strengthen community coalitions as the first line of defence against privatization of water and other vital services.

Delegates to convention adopted a resolution mandating CUPE to identify opportunities where we can reverse privatization and contract services back in. Remunicipalization is a growing global movement. Let's work together to identify water and wastewater services we can campaign to bring back in house. Learn more at cupe.ca/water.

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Delegates to convention also resolved to fight the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), because we know trade deals like TiSA and the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) put public water services at risk. Information on TiSA and other trade deals is at cupe.ca/trade.

CUPE continues to advocate for water justice for Indigenous communities. We are working in solidarity with Indigenous organizations to ensure the Liberal government delivers on its promise to end the water crisis in Indigenous communities within five years. You can find out more at cupe.ca/aboriginal.

As the federal government unveils its infrastructure plans, we will demand that no federal infrastructure funds go to privatization. The Liberals have promoted P3s in the past. The new government has ended the Harper government's mandatory P3 review of major infrastructure projects, but hasn't committed to closing PPP Canada, the federal agency that funds and promotes infrastructure privatization.

On World Water Day, we urge CUPE members to take action to protect water as a human right and a public service. Together, let's build workers' power to keep fighting for water justice in 2016.

In solidarity,



MARK HANCOCK
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer