

February 2014

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

MARCH 22 – WORLD WATER DAY

March 22 is World Water Day – a moment when water activists across Canada and around the globe renew our work to protect and promote public water and wastewater services.

As the Harper Conservative government continues its push to privatize municipal water systems, a powerful international movement is reversing privatization in a growing number of communities.

There are many ways CUPE members can resist corporate control of our water sources and systems, and advance the importance of water as a public service and a human right.

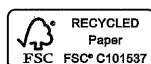
- Take action on bottled water in your local, workplace or community. March 19 is Bottled Water Free Day. This year, the Coalition for Bottled Water Free Communities is launching a reality check on campuses that have announced a ban on bottled water. Visit backthetap.ca for information on the campus audit and other action ideas to promote public drinking water.
- Learn about and share the Alternative Federal Budget. The AFB outlines concrete steps to ensure safe, clean drinking water in First Nation communities. The budget is also a financial blueprint for maintaining, upgrading and expanding municipal water and wastewater services without privatization. Visit policyalternatives.ca/afb2014 to read and share this positive, public vision for our communities.
- Plug into the global network of water activism. We are not alone in our fight for public water. Workers and community members around the world are uniting in solidarity to defend and take back control of public water and wastewater services. Visit waterjustice.org to draw inspiration and learn about successful campaigns to fight privatization.

An inspiring campaign is underway right now for the right to public water in Europe. The right2water.eu campaign is a broad coalition of workers; environmentalists, public water operators, women, public health advocates and other civil society activists. The European Federation of Public Service Unions is a strong supporter of the campaign, which gathered nearly two million signatures demanding guaranteed access to public water and wastewater services for every resident of the European Union. Organizers used a new tool for participatory democracy – the European Citizens' Initiative, or ECI – to push their demand that the right to water become a reality for all.

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PAUL MOIST – National President / Président national **CHARLES FLEURY** – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

FRED HAHN – DANIEL LÉGÈRE – LUCIE LEVASSEUR – KELLY MOIST – MARLE ROBERTS – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidences générales



Closer to home, CUPE will continue to fight water and wastewater privatization, exposing the true price of P3s. In Regina, Saint John, N.B. and other municipalities, we will stand in solidarity with community members to protect water as a public service, a human right and a collective good for future generations.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer