

BE IT RESOLVED...

More than 100 Canadian municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have endorsed declarations that oppose the privatization of water and urge provincial and federal governments to protect public water.

This sample declaration is one you can use or adapt to ask your own municipal Council for their support in the fight for public water.

Sample declaration* for your municipal Council

WHEREAS March 22 is World Water Day; and

WHEREAS one in six people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS the UN Conference on Water in 1977 in Mar del Plata affirmed the right of all persons to access clean drinking water in order to satisfy their fundamental needs; and

WHEREAS current World Bank loans for water services in developing countries frequently require the privatization of those services or an increase in water prices, thereby jeopardizing citizens' access to safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities are stewards of public water and can use their important role to keep community water systems in public hands and influence both provincial and federal governments in the fight to protect public water;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council recognize and affirm that:

- Water is a sacred gift that connects all life
- Access to clean water is a basic human right
- The value of Earth's fresh water to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value
- Fresh water is a sacred legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Council call upon the federal government to urge the World Bank to ensure access to clean, affordable water for the world's poor, and strengthen the role of the public sector and individual communities in setting water policies and delivering and regulating water services.

* Adapted by CUPE from a Declaration developed by The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace and KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives.