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TO: Northern Ontario CUPE Locals and Area Offices

Re: Bottled Water Campaign with Council of Canadians

Dear CUPE Northern Ontario Activists,

The first half of the Unbottle It! Tour with Sid Ryan and Maude Barlow has wrapped up in Southern, Central, Eastern & Western Ontario and is heading for the North!!

I'm really excited to share with you all that CUPE Ontario has joined up with Maude Barlow, newly appointed UN Advisor on Water and the Council of Canadians to host a 5 city tour across Northern Ontario in from April 15 - 24, 2009.

The goals:

- Promote public water and foster support for keeping water services in Ontario
- Secure bottled water bans in municipalities, school boards, hospitals, universities and other public institutions
- Secure province wide ban of the sale and purchase of single-use water bottles
- Raise member and public awareness

The objectives of the campaign include generating public support for bottled water bans, supporting and empowering community activists seeking bottled water bans and restoring public faith in public water.

CUPE Ontario will be working closely with the Council of Canadians on this tour and we need to immediately link up our local people with their local people.

The tour stop will media opportunities with Brother Sid Ryan and Maude Barlow, followed by a town hall public meeting, in the following communities:

April 15, 2009	Sault Ste Marie
April 16, 2009	Sudbury
April 22, 2009	Kenora
April 23, 2009	Thunder Bay
April 24, 2009	North Bay

It is crucial to have CUPE activists working on the ground with the Council of Canadians to mobilize our members and help make this campaign a success.

CUPE Ontario will be booking an activist off for 2 weeks in each of the identified communities to assist with organizing for each event and supporting the Council of Canadians efforts.

If you are available to help support these efforts in any of the targeted communities – please let me know. I am hoping to connect CUPE folks up with the Council of Canadian folks as soon as possible so organizing and planning discussions can begin.

The first half of this tour has been a huge hit. Sid & Maude have been thrilled by the response and the efforts on the ground. The campaign is already having an impact with municipalities and institutions taking the lead on ban motions.

I look forward to hearing from you, having your support and getting you all hooked up with Council of Canadians members in your area.

In solidarity,

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