



Dear Mayor and Council:

As you consider measures to promote the right to water, decrease waste and protect the environment, we encourage you to consider supporting public water by actively encouraging the consumption of tap water over bottled water.

In the past year Canadians have made a commitment to public water services. Across the country municipalities, schools and universities, faith-based organizations, restaurants and unions have stood up for Canada's public water services by phasing out the provision and sale of bottled water.

Just recently the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) distributed a communiqué to all its members endorsing municipal initiatives to promote public water and phase out the provision and sale of bottled water in municipal facilities.

In Ontario alone 13 municipalities have passed legislation to phase out the provision and sale of bottled water on city/town property and promote public municipal water, with many more currently exploring options for how to "turn on the tap" and phase out the bottle.

The fact is that in Ontario municipal water systems are among the safest and strongest in the world. Meanwhile bottled water costs consumers thousands of times more and is far less regulated than tap water. The production of bottled water also consumes vast amounts of energy and releases harmful toxics into the environment.

Of the many different services that municipalities provide, it is often said that no service is as critical to the health of citizens as the supply of clean water. Phasing out the provision and sale of bottled water on municipal property and committing to promoting clean and accessible public water will demonstrate a commitment to public water.

The enclosed documents briefly outline how municipalities can take action on public water services and bottled water.

As a network of organizations from across Ontario we would be pleased to discuss these issues and options in more detail and look forward to hearing from you soon.

With Regards,

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On behalf of: Polaris Institute, The Council of Canadians, CUPE Ontario, OPSEU, KAIROS, Development and Peace, Sierra Youth Coalition, Development and Peace, Canadian Federation of Students, Public Water Initiative at U of T