



Quebec World Water
Contract Association



Petition to the Government of Canada

We, citizens (or residents) of Canada, wish to draw the attention of the Government of Canada to the fact that:

- 1.4 billion people lacked access to drinking water and a further 2.6 billion to basic sanitation facilities in 2007. This reality has had direct and harmful consequences on the levels of health, education, poverty, social development, and gender equity in the lives of the world's poor.
- Water is a human right, a limited natural resource that is essential to life and health on the planet and part of our common heritage. It is not a commodity.
- All forms of privatization of water systems, including public private partnerships, have proven totally unable to respond to the needs of the poor around the world.
- Canada is committed to reach the Millennium Development Goals reducing by half the number of people lacking access to water and sanitation facilities by 2015.
- Canada supports and financially contributes to the Private-Public Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), a World Bank division that promotes private sector involvement in various sectors, including water services, in low income countries.
- Canada has yet to formally recognize the human right to water as defined by General Comment #15, interpreting the *UN's International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, which it ratified in 1976.
- Canada and its NAFTA partners are currently conducting strategic discussions that could lead to the increased commodification of water. This could have devastating impacts on water resources and ecosystems.

THEREFORE, we request the Canadian Government to:

- Stand in opposition to the current World Bank privatization model and withdraw its support and financial participation to the Private-Public Infrastructure Advisory Facility.
- Support the various alternative models for the public, democratic and participatory management of water resources put forward by unions and civil society organizations that have successfully expanded water access around the world.
- Officially recognize the human right to water at the UN Human Rights Council.
- Adopt and implement a national action plan and strategy that guarantees the human right to water and basic sanitation.
- Protect water resources by implementing the June 5th majority resolution of the House of Commons demanding that water be excluded from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Signature (do not print)

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Return the petition to: QUEBEC WORLD WATER CONTRACT ASSOCIATION

**PO Box 47639, Plateau Mont Royal Postal Station,
Montreal (Quebec) Canada H2H 2S8**

Further Information: e-mail: info@aqcme.org Web: www.aqcme.org