



CSJ Blue Community Updates and Invites

Thanks to everyone who joined our World Water Day event: **honouring the value of water**. We heard 16 different voices, each with a unique expression on this year's theme. We had songs, prayers, poems, paintings, photos, collages, presentations, video statements, and even a story of 12 women blessing Ramsey Lake and the water treatment plant and workers in Sudbury.

In case you missed it or want to see parts of it again, [it's now on our Youtube page.](#)

Here are a few of the CSJ Blue Community updates that didn't fit into the World Water Day program.

Water is the First Medicine -- an event with WaterAid Canada

Save the date for April 7th (World Health Day) because from 10 - 11:30 am the CSJ Blue Community project will be in conversation with Julie Truelove (Senior Policy Analyst with WaterAid Canada). Join us to learn about the role of water as the front line of defense and the foundation for public health. This will be a webinar combining short presentations with time for your comments, questions and feedback. Yes, WaterAid Canada would like our feedback on their global strategies, while also aware that parts of this work are needed in Canada because of water insecurity. **More information to come, [but you can RSVP for this special event here.](#)**

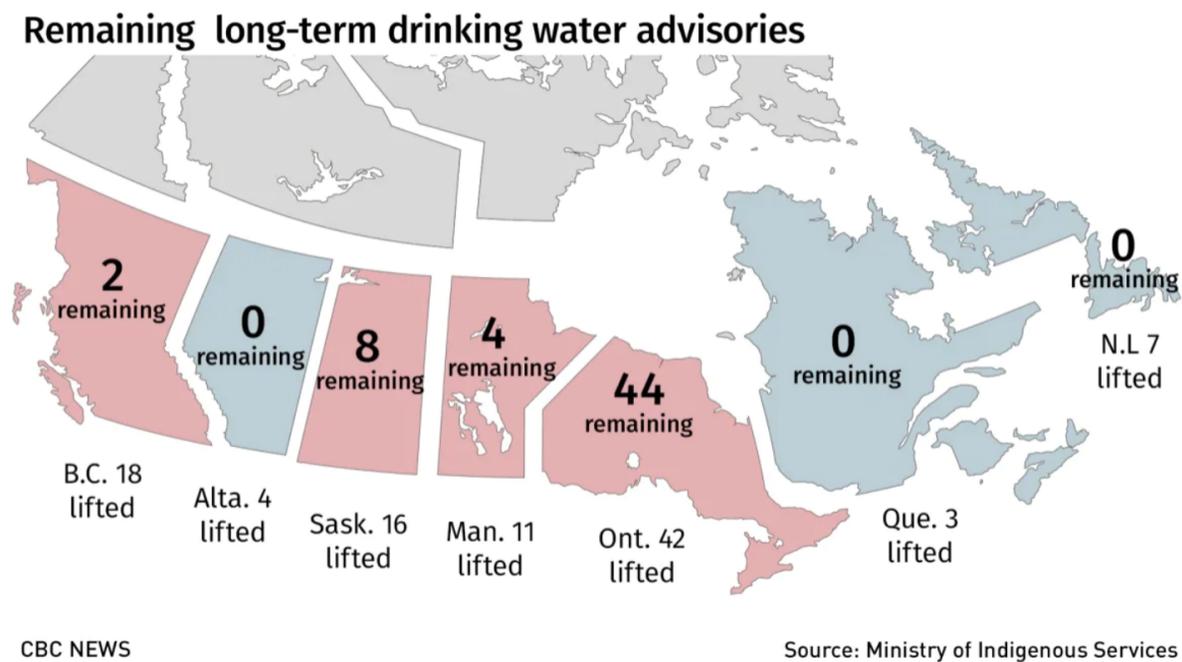
Save Wolf Lake (17 minute documentary)

At one time red pine old-growth forests spanned across North America. Today, only 1.2% of that old-growth forest remain. Located in Ontario's mining capital - Sudbury - Wolf Lake stands as a rich but fragile ecological gem. In 1999 the government of Ontario committed to protect Wolf Lake however mining claims and leases surrounding the lake prevented its inclusion into the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. Journey with adventurers, scientists, historians and environmental activists seeking to protect Wolf Lake. [Take Action.](#)

Ending long-term drinking water advisories

Federal government vows again to end boil water advisories but offers no new target date. Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller recommitted the federal government Wednesday to its goal of lifting all long-term drinking water advisories on First Nations reserves — but didn't offer a timeline for completing the work. With 58 active advisories remaining in 38 communities, the Liberals will miss a self-imposed deadline this month for lifting all long-term advisories.

Chief Eric Redhead of Shamattawa First Nation in northern Manitoba, which has been under a long-term drinking water advisory since December 2019, said the website won't help. "It's just a website to justify the delay for the rest of Canadians and for themselves," Redhead said. [From this CBC article.](#)



On this same issue, we have to be critical of the government's strategy and effort. According to this well informed speech [by MP Charlie Angus](#), the Federal government is repeatedly ignoring the best ways to end the water advisories and mismanaging the crisis. He notes that even the information on the new website doesn't match the realities of what's happening on the ground.

For instance, when CSJ Blue Community coordinator Paul Baines decided to see the status for Curve Lake First Nation, the website says the project is completed. Which is confusing since Paul has read that parts of Curve lake are still without safe tap water and the [First Nation is taking the Federal government to court](#) over the lack of tap water. Lastly, those in London would be interested to know

that Oneida of the Thames First Nation is only at the Feasibility stage of their new water system. There is still the Design, Construction Starting, Construction Finished, and Lift Recommended stages to come with no date set for completion. It will likely take years.

Nestlé's Troubled Waters -- a Virtual Rally on March 18

Nestlé, the world's largest corporate water bottler, is planning to sell its North American bulk bottled water business, which operates the brands Arrowhead, Poland Spring, Zephyrhills, Pure Life, Ice Mountain and others, to private equity firm One Rock Capital, according to news reports. This sale, for an estimated \$4 billion, would be a massive private transfer of 'water wealth,' an especially ominous development in light of Wall Street's accelerating interest in 'water futures' trading.

This past fall, our coalition of national advocacy groups and communities impacted by Nestlé's water extraction and bottling demanded that several particularly troubled and controversial Nestlé Waters' sites be returned to public ownership before any sale. From the Story of Stuff website.

One of these groups is Wellington Water Watchers in Guelph Ontario. [You can watch the Rally here which features many voices including Maude Barlow, Mike Balkwill, and Makaśa Looking Horse.](#)

EVENT SPEAKERS
RECLAIM NESTLÉ'S TROUBLED WATERS

MIKE BALKWILL
WELLINGTON WATER WATCHERS
GUELPH, ONTARIO

PEGGY CASE
MICHIGAN CITIZENS FOR WATER CONSERVATION
EVART, MICHIGAN

NICKIE SEKERA
COMMUNITY WATER JUSTICE
FRYEBURG, MAINE

MAUDE BARLOW
AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST,
OTTAWA, CANADA

MICHAEL O'HEANEY
THE STORY OF STUFF PROJECT
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

JEN SWACINA
UNBOTTLE AND PROTECT CHAFFEE COUNTY WATER
RUBY MOUNTAIN, COLORADO

MERRILLEE MALWITZ-JIPSON
OUR SANTA FE RIVER
FORT WHITE, FLORIDA

MAKASA LOOKING HORSE
THE WATER WATCHERS
SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER

STORYOFSTUFF.ORG

VIRTUAL RALLY