

## CSJ Blue Community Updates and Invites



Here is another summary of news and invitations to protect water as a human right, shared commons, and sacred gift.

The work lately has been busy connecting people and groups about the Line 5 pipeline that passes through the heart of the Great Lakes. There have been several meetings with water NGOs in Canada as well as Ojibwe tribes in Michigan. There is an online event June 24-27, more details to come soon including a presentation by Paul Baines.

There have also been key developments for the bottled water industry. Nestlé has sold its North American operations to private equity firms who are calling themselves Blue Triton. The public comment period on this application ends June 22nd. See below for more.

We have been learning more about Junction Creek watershed to prepare for a sacred water walk along its path. COVID has delayed the start time of this 4-day walk, but supporters are cleaning the riverbanks and learning about the ecological and colonial history of the area. The walk ends at the Spanish Residential school where there will be a private ceremony for those impacted by this school. The walk is led by Anishinaabe women and the Junction Creek Stewardship Council and a small CSJ Blue Community group in Sudbury has been meeting to find ways to support this water and healing work. [Learn more here.](#)

You can always see all the Updates & Invites sent out [on our website.](#)

### NEWS

#### **Get to know a watershed: Junction Creek**

#### [Koral Adventure Series: Maligned creek holds many pleasant surprises](#)

*The creek is fed by five tributaries, some of which carried mining effluent at one time. It widens into Mud and Simon Lakes in Lively. Eventually, at McCharles Lake, Junction Creek flows into the Vermilion River. From there, its waters meet the Spanish River and then, the North Channel.*

## Ontario announced new Permit To Take Water permits.

[The new changes to Ontario's water taking program include:](#)

- Giving municipalities more say on whether water bottling companies can use groundwater in their areas.
- Establishing priorities on how water should be shared among water users when there are competing demands for water.
- Making water taking data available to the public to increase transparency of how Ontario manages water resources.

However, Blue Triton (who now own the old Nestlé plant in Aberfoyle Ontario) wants a permit to take over 1 million liters of water everyday for at least 10 years, even as droughts are becoming more common. First Nations do not consent to this water taking. The Aberfoyle plant produces millions of plastic water bottles everyday (only half are recycled). And water is increasingly financialized as Wall Street and investors get to decide who has access to water and who does not.

[Reject this proposal by Blue Triton \(Triton Waters Canada Holdings is their legal name\) before the June 22 deadline.](#)



### **Makaśa Looking Horse: Why I took on Nestlé**

*I was determined that my community be completely aware of what Nestlé was doing on our land. I hosted a run from the school in the middle of Ohsweken to the Medicine House by the river. We ran to raise awareness and to carry the message that we as a community oppose Nestlé taking our water.*

*It was important to raise awareness because we, the Indigenous people of Six Nations, should always be at the table when the health of our water is at stake. We should have a say about the permits and our own water is governed. The reality is that we are rarely included in these conversations. [Read her full article.](#)*

### **'Informed and unwilling': opposition to high-level nuclear waste burial grows**

*A new organization called "We the Nuclear Free North" held a very informative webinar on May 10 to address concerns about the proposed burial of high-level nuclear waste in northwestern Ontario. High-level nuclear waste is intensely radioactive, spent nuclear fuel rods taken mainly from nuclear power plants.*

*The nuclear waste consortium wants to transport some 57,000 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel rods from 18 nuclear reactors in Ontario and one in New Brunswick to the disposal site. As the webinar panelists explained, that would mean "two or three trucks per day" making the long-distance drive to the site "every day for the next 40 years." [Read the full article.](#)*

### **Water Personhood Effort for the Ottawa River**

*Embarking on the journey to grant Kichi Sibi legal personhood represents a powerful river trip like no other. It would transform how we think about water and river life, compelling us to reconcile western and Indigenous legal frameworks, advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and set the course for a new relationship with the river towards respect and stewardship. [Read the full article.](#)*

### **City committee examines plans to bury nuclear waste upstream**

*The City of Ottawa wants the company that runs the Chalk River nuclear waste facility to do more to protect the Ottawa River, and not accept nuclear waste from outside Ontario if it goes ahead and builds a large disposal site.*

*But councillors on the city committee responsible for water and environmental issues stopped short of outright opposing two Canadian Nuclear Laboratories projects: creating a mound to dispose of radioactive waste less than one kilometre from the river, and sealing the country's first reactor near Rolphton, Ont., in specialized grout. [Read the full article.](#)*

### **Laudato Si' Action Platform**

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a program and associated website that equips Catholic institutions, communities, and families to implement Laudato Si'. It is sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and is developed with a ground-up approach in partnership with diverse Catholic people and institutions. It offers guidance and a space for all to share ideas, questions, challenges, and inspiration, since "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." (LS 141) [Read more on the website.](#)

### **Line 5 Oil & Gas Pipeline**

Buried under the lakes and cutting through the center of the Great Lakes, Line 5 is a 67 year old pipeline that mostly brings oil to Ontario and Quebec. The Governor of Michigan gave Enbridge 6 months to shut down after decades of breached safety conditions. As of May 13th, Enbridge is trespassing because it has no permit to run Line 5 on the lake beds of Huron and Michigan. [Read more here.](#) Canadian climate and water organizations have been slow to offer critiques of this pipeline because it operates in Wisconsin and Michigan. But the word is getting out and a growing number of Canadians are learning about all the risks of the pipeline and lack of government leadership to build greener energy infrastructure.

### **Feds stand firm on toxic ruling as Big Plastic threatens lawsuit**

*The Responsible Plastic Use Coalition (RPUC), a coalition of 27 petrochemical and plastic packaging manufacturers, on Wednesday announced plans to sue the Liberal government over its decision last week to list plastic as toxic under Canada's primary environmental law — after months of lobbying against the government's approach — opening the door to a suite of planned regulations to end the plastic pollution problem. [Read the full article.](#)*

## **RECORDED EVENTS**

### **Jesuit Forum: Listening to Indigenous Voices launch video**

The launch event for the new dialogue guide, "Listening to Indigenous Voices" with special guests Sylvia McAdam and Lee Maracle. From the brochure: *The resource is a journey through some of the most important Indigenous voices of our generation. In it, you will learn how to engage in dialogue, growth and change - all the while enacting justice and relationships from the visions stories, and words of Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers.* Visit the website to [order a copy](#). Watch the event [recording](#).

### **Save Our Water Community Zoom Meeting & Update, April 22 2021**

*It had been more than two years since Save Our Water's last public update and there was a lot to talk about! It was a great opportunity to hear from the Township - including Centre*

Wellington's Mayor Kelly Linton - and to find out what we at Save Our Water have been up to. This meeting also included an update on recent developments in related Provincial legislation, and what's needed to continue protecting the Middlebrook well and our Centre Wellington's water. [Watch the event recording.](#)

## WATCH

### **Lords of Water documentary**

*Featuring interviews with investors, environmental and business experts, and those affected by water scarcity, it examines the struggle between those who wish to treat water as raw material and those who wish to preserve it as a resource open to all. From the Al Jazeera site. [Watch it here.](#)*

## REFLECTION

### **Before you state a land acknowledgement, mean it**

*A land acknowledgement must come from your heart, not just be read off a piece of paper; when you state it, mean it. Ask yourself: how does this land acknowledgement represent my connection to this place? And now that I know about the mistreatment of Indigenous Peoples, what does this land acknowledgement propel me to do?*

*It is up to you to do your research before stating a land acknowledgement, as it is important to understand the words you are saying, their proper pronunciation and what they mean. After doing your research, you can write your own authentic land acknowledgement. This can be a powerful way to connect with your audience and give a meaningful voice to Indigenous issues. [Read the full article.](#)*