

Financial Options

Rather than sell bottled water, why not make tap or bulk water available for free?

How can your favourite social gathering space link a **Land Acknowledgement** with refusing bottled water without losing any money?

Each gathering place would find its own specific strategy, but here are a few options to consider.

Set up a **shared waters fund** to pay for any additional costs and to recoup lost bottled water revenue. Potentially, excess funds could be donated to an Indigenous led group.

Contributions to this fund could come from:

- a collection box or website button for donations
- an optional or built-in surcharge when making a purchase
- proceeds from a series of paid events about water
- community sponsors with aligned values

Communicating to people about how this shift honours a relationship of repair is key.

Keep us updated on your effort.

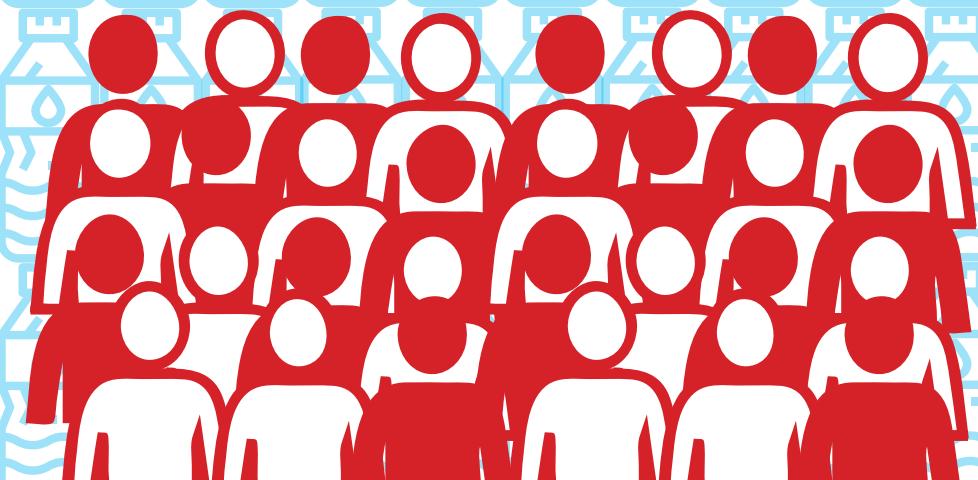


Our Blue Community program reflects the Congregations of St. Joseph's (CSJ) charism of unity and reconciliation. We honour our responsibilities to protect water as a human right, shared commons, and sacred gift. Through reflection, education, advocacy, and service, this program centers and strengthens our respectful relations to all the waters circulating our common home.

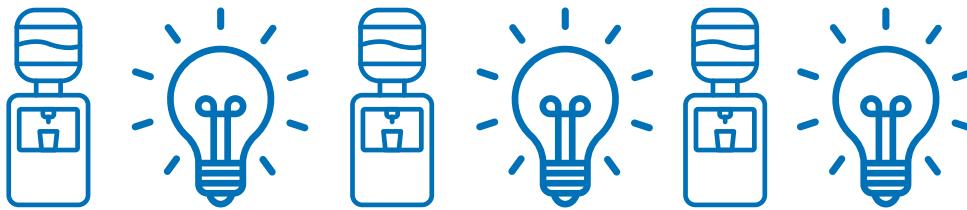
www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org

DOES YOUR SOCIAL GATHERING PLACE SELL BOTTLED WATER?

An invitation for a relationship of repair



United as a Blue Community
The Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph



Do you visit or manage a social gathering space that sells bottled water and wanting a change to business as usual?

Spaces could include: cinemas, theatres, community centres, restaurants, cafés, arenas and more.

What if your gathering place acknowledged the lands & waters, stopped selling bottled water, and instead offered tap or bulk water for free?

Every year, Canadians use 2 billion plastic water bottles - that's 5.3 million bottles each day. Meanwhile, clean drinking water can often be served through municipally-fed taps or refillable 18 litre jugs.

More and more gathering spaces are making a Land Acknowledgement. This is a public statement to honour the territory, Treaties, and the Indigenous peoples who have and continue to reciprocate the gift of creation through their ancestral and sovereign responsibilities.

Why not link Action to this Acknowledgement?

Creating or updating a Land Acknowledgement for gathering spaces can name key relationships and commitments. By reducing our waste and celebrating the gift of water, we can repair some of the broken human and more-than-human relationships caused by colonization.

Consider adopting and adapting this idea that honours the lands & waters and stops the sale of bottled water.

Relationships of Repair

When we refuse bottled water and offer free bulk/tap water instead, we are affirming :

- **Water is for life, not for profit.**
- Water is a human right and not just for those who can afford it.
- **Tap water is 2,000 times cheaper, creates no waste, is publicly funded and managed, and is tested more rigorously than bottled water.**
- Colonial polices permitting bottled water require the consent of Indigenous nations, which is not the case now.
- **The Climate Emergency and being a good ancestor require smaller carbon footprints and the energy used in the lifecycle of bottled water is unjustified and unwise.**
- We don't need more plastics and the fossil fuel industry polluting water and human bodies.
- **Bottled water disconnects people from the vitality of their local watershed. Think Global, Drink Local.**
- Water is a sacred gift deserving our respect and acts of gratitude.

Alternatives to Bottled Water

The rise of bottled water in society is due to massive advertising campaigns and the lack of alternatives. More and more gathering spaces are now offering tap water or bulk water dispensed from large 18 litre refillable jugs. **See the back page for alternative ways to recoup costs for making the switch.**

