



## Blue Community Updates and Invitations

A deep freeze has visited us here in February. Our furnaces, heaters, and wood stoves are likely working overtime, while the Great Lakes are finally freezing over after a record breaking winter of open waters.

Welcome to 2021 and another short update from the CSJ Blue Community project. Below are some news and event items that align with our pledge to protect water as a human right, shared commons, and sacred gift.

For the most current updates, see the project's [Facebook page](#).

### EVENTS

#### March 22, World Water Day

We are hosting an online event to share our expressions about this year's global theme for World Water Day: **the value of water**. More details to come for this afternoon event but to prepare, we are looking for your prayers, pictures, stories, poems, symbols or songs on the theme of "what does water mean to you?"

The 90 minute format on the 22nd will feature some voices from the Federation Ecology Committee, the Blue Community Steering Committee and some of our Indigenous collaborators. Please contact Paul Baines before **March 17th** if you would like to share a creative expression for this World Water Day event.

#### February 18th, 7pm

##### Canada, the Churches, & Bill C-15

The event will include a conversation on why The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples legislation is important to Canadian churches. A panel of experts will describe Bill C-15, the legislation the government of Canada is introducing to implement UNDRIP, and explore the support and opposition to the Bill. For more information and to RSVP, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canada-the-churches-bill-c-15-le-canada-les-eglises-et-le-projet-de-tickets-140299007107>

**March 17th, 7:30 pm**

**Port Hope: a case study in radioactive risk**

This third webinar in the Protect Our Waterways series will look at Port Hope, the legacy of radioactive wastes the community is burdened with, and community concerns, particularly in light of a recent proposal to relax environmental standards that many in the community feel were already too lax by changing the radioactive waste cleanup criteria. RSVP here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UUS5CkPwQeiZ-65-SXxPTw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UUS5CkPwQeiZ-65-SXxPTw)

**April 7th**

We have been meeting with WaterAid Canada to collaborate on a special online event for you on World Health Day. Save the date to learn about how the global south is adopting 'Water as the First Medicine' when working for water justice and public health.

**February 24 & 25**

**Sustainable Development goals in Peterborough**

Paul has met 3 times with a local water circle that is adapting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals locally which include: SDG #1 No Poverty, SDG # 4 Quality Education, SDG #6 Clean Water and Sanitization, and SDG #13 Climate Action. There is an online Community Forum Feb 24 and 25. For those in the Peterborough area rsvp here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leaving-no-one-behind-advancing-the-sdgs-in-nogojiwano-ngpeterborough-registration-135378646175>

**ACTION**

**Take the Water is Life Pledge**

*This year I pledge to make a practice of honoring the earth's waters. I will bring attention to the ongoing water crisis and global wars fueled by water extraction. My actions will honor the courageous actions of the earth's water protectors.*

<https://cptaction.org/water/>

**READ**

New blog post:

**Water for All: a conversation with Water First (video recording included)**

On January 26, 2021 the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph invited John Millar (Founder and Executive Director of Water First) into a conversation with our Blue Community project and he took many questions from the audience.

## **Plastic Recycling: that's not a thing. GreenPeace responds to Canada's plastics reduction strategy**

The mountains of plastic pollution Canadian companies generate every year shows no signs of abating, even with recent federal measures designed to tackle the problem. Canada introduces roughly 4.67 million tonnes of plastic into the domestic market each year. 1 Of this, over 3.2 million tonnes end up as waste. 2 Roughly 86 percent of this waste is dumped in landfills.

The federal government's proposed approach to plastic waste is built on the myth of recycling. The approach hurts communities and leaves the public holding the bag for continued industry failures, while missing opportunities to "build back better" from covid-19 by making a truly circular economy part of the promised green and equitable recovery from the pandemic. **Read the full report:**

[https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-canada-stateless/1d30117a-greenpeacereport\\_plasticrecyclingthatsnotathing.pdf](https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-canada-stateless/1d30117a-greenpeacereport_plasticrecyclingthatsnotathing.pdf)

## **Road Salts Turning Freshwater into Saltwater**

Every year in Canada, we use 7 million tonnes (up from 5 million a few years ago) of road salt on our streets and highways. That's nearly 200kg of salt per Canadian! And that doesn't even include the salt we apply to sidewalks, private parking lots, and our own driveways. And 17 years ago, in 2001, Environment Canada considered declaring road salt a toxic substance because of its impacts on ecosystems. But instead, they decided to create a voluntary code of practice for municipalities and others in 2004.

[From Environmental Defence.](#)

This winter season marks the first rollout of a new system for snow and ice control in **Peterborough** that aims to reduce salt usage by 1,500 to 2,000 tonnes per year (or 20 to 30 percent) when fully implemented. [From Peterborough Currents.](#)

## **Ex-Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder charged with Flint water poisoning**

"I literally could have cried," said Hawk, sitting in her car after learning Tuesday that former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and others in his administration were expected to be charged in a water crisis blamed with causing learning disabilities in scores of children and other medical problems among adults in the majority Black city about 60 miles (95 kilometers) northwest of Detroit. Full story:

<https://www.greatlakesnow.org/2021/01/ap-flint-families-welcome-water-crisis-charges-sEEK-healing>

## WATCH

### **Feeding the Blooms - Great Lakes Now**

Lake Erie's annual toxic algal blooms are fed by runoff from agricultural land in the Maumee River watershed. Some farmers have taken steps to reduce the amount of runoff from their fields. But certain regulations only apply to the biggest farms, so large-scale dairy and animal operations continue to threaten the waters.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZqCVKgopts&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZqCVKgopts&feature=emb_title)

You can always check our website for more information and to get in touch with Paul Baines, the CSJ Blue Community Coordinator. If you have water news or invites to share, please get in touch.

<https://www.bluecommunitycsj.org/>

[info@bluecommunitycsj.org](mailto:info@bluecommunitycsj.org)

To see the complete log of CSJ Blue Community updates, visit the website:

<https://www.bluecommunitycsj.org/email-updates>