

# One River, Two Futures

## REFLECTIONS ON WATER



### WATER AS A PROTECTED HUMAN RIGHT, SHARED COMMONS AND SACRED GIFT.

When we respect water as the source of all life, it invites our acts of gratitude and reciprocity.

We are one expression of a grand watershed and our actions have the power to degrade or regenerate the living Earth. The waters do not 'belong' to us, we belong to the waters.

Indigenous nations have not given up their responsibilities to protect water for all and for generations to come. Their leadership can be a model for all Canadians as we become more connected to our watersheds.

Everything we do impacts water. Our collective energy, food, transportation, recreation and housing choices can not only lower this impact, but revitalize our common home. People are linking water protection to social justice and the sacredness of Creation.

#### WHAT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS DO YOU SEE ABOVE?

Did you know . . .

Just 0.3% of all water on Earth is available for human life. 99.7% is salt water or locked into frozen glaciers.

In the Great Lakes region, we are blessed with 20% of the world's surface freshwater — so we have an extra responsibility to protect water for all.

The Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada became a Blue Community to affirm our care for water. We join 15 million others living in Blue Communities around the world who are also committed to advancing the human right to water, ending bottled water sales and investing in public water infrastructure. We continue to learn, advocate and connect with water and water protectors locally and globally and we invite you to join us.

### WATER AS AN EXPENDABLE RESOURCE AND A PAID SERVICE.

When water is a commodity, large corporations use and pollute it for almost free, while society's most marginalized are forced to go without.

Every minute, 1 million plastic bottles are bought worldwide. Global annual sales of bottled water are \$465 billion with Canadians spending about \$2.5 billion. Meanwhile, aging public water systems are underfunded.

Bottled water sales and subsidies continue to grow, because of excessive advertising and outdated government regulations. Nestlé pays about \$500 per million litres of groundwater in Ontario which is ¼ of a penny per litre. Coke and Pepsi buy bulk water at reduced costs from municipal water facilities through private contracts.

Over 2 billion people drink contaminated water every day — which then kills half a million people a year. In Canada, First Nations communities are 90% more likely not to have clean running water than the average Canadian.

#### WHAT HARMFUL RELATIONSHIPS DO YOU SEE ABOVE?

Did you know . . .

Public tap water reaches 75% of Canadians and produces no plastic waste.

Bottled water is 3,000 times more expensive than tap water and is tested less for quality.

The energy needed for a bottle's production, distribution and disposal is equivalent to filling ¼ of your plastic water bottle with oil.

82% of Ontario residents want bottled water permits to end.

