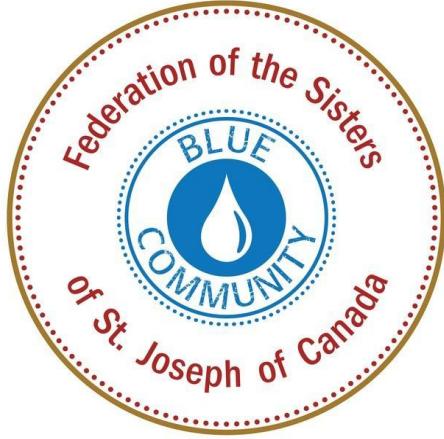


## CSJ Blue Community Updates and Invites



Here is our October summary of news and invitations to protect water as a human right, shared commons, and sacred gift. If you have any news to share or are interested in specific themes or issues, please contact Paul Baines.

**On Saturday October 16th there is Watershed 2021:** a people's water convention This will be an online event to deepen the water justice movement in Ontario. With plenary sessions, special guests, workshops, working sessions, networking, on-demand content, and an Expo Area featuring digital booths from local organizations, we'll come together to restore environmental protections for water security and help build the movement for water justice in Ontario.

The live convention events will happen from **10AM - 4:30PM on Saturday, October 16th.**

- ♦ Engage with renowned experts, NGOs, indigenous leaders, and grassroots groups
- ♦ Share your opinions with the Ontario government, opposition parties & broader community
- ♦ Discover your role in building the movement for a more just & secure water future in Ontario

Our CSJ Blue Community is getting a 'booth' so that the public can see and sign up for what we are doing. With this 'booth' we get 10 tickets! Contact Paul to register for your free ticket, or RSVP online. Contact Paul by email: [info@bluecommunityCSJ.org](mailto:info@bluecommunityCSJ.org) or phone: 647-831-4525.

### **October 20th, Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water – A Hamilton Case Study (a webinar)**

The presence of lead in our drinking water is a crucial public health issue – this webinar will provide a brief overview of the health impacts of lead and identify recommendations for a permanent policy solution that protects everyone. Focusing on the community of Hamilton but open to everyone, we want to hear from you – how is lead impacting the place you live, learn, work and play? Together, we'll talk about how we can advocate for change and ensure we can all enjoy safe drinking water. [Registration is required.](#)

**On September 29th,** there was an online event called **Decolonizing Settler Led Water Protection.** In this watershed moment of unsettling colonial relations between Canadians and Indigenous peoples, how are Canadian-led water efforts picking up their responsibilities? The event format had 3 non-expert panelists responding to this general question and participants' questions too.

You can now see and share this event that was recorded with Paul Baines as one of the panelists: [See the youtube video](#) here.

**Extended to the end of November**, [WaterAid Canada is organizing a walk](#) to give people the power to change their own lives, forever. Gather your friends and family and walk for the millions of women and children who walk up to 12km every day to get the water they need to survive. Walk for the millions of women and children, like Tiyamike ,14 years old. She lives in a remote village in Malawi. She has to walk to collect water every morning, which means she is often late for school. Tiyamike walks around 4km a day for water.

**In September, the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice** published their next issue of Open Space. In this 12-page guide, they ask us to reflect on 'all our relations' via a meditation on the 4 traditional elements of earth, water, fire, and air. The timing also highlights the 2021 ecumenical Season of Creation. **For the element of water, it states:**

*Remember the rain that fell for the first 300 million years of Earth's history, setting the stage for the emergence of life. Remember the birth of the oceans, the same oceans you carry in your blood, which has the same salt content as the ancient seas.*

*If no life had existed on Earth, the water on our planet might have disappeared long ago—slowly breaking apart into hydrogen and oxygen, the former escaping from the atmosphere, leaving behind a desert world.*

*Yet, you live on a planet covered instead by oceans, lakes, and rivers. Three quarters of the planet's surface is covered in water. This water flows through all living creatures, linking us all through both time and space.*

[See and share the entire Open Space guide.](#)

**There is a new blog post up on our CSJ Blue Community website** about the September 24th Global Climate Action event at the Blue Triton (formerly Nestlé) water bottling plant just south of Guelph. The post is called **Solidarity In Action: water unites** and it describes and reflects on the convergence of water and climate activists within the context of settler-Indigenous collaboration for decolonizing water governance. [Read the full post here.](#)

**Canada Gets Serious About Water Woes. Will Indigenous Voices Be Heard?**

[Link to the full article -- here are just 3 paragraphs:](#)

*The aim of the CWA (Canada Water Agency), which is expected to be running by 2022, is to modernize water policy in Canada amid myriad pressures facing the nation from climate change. But its proponents say it is also an opportunity to put Indigenous communities at the heart of governance – restoring agency and fairness in water policy but also making smarter policy.*

*"We've seen the benefits of having the Public Health Agency of Canada being in place when the pandemic hit, it's hard to imagine how things would have been without one," Dr. Pomeroy says. "But I'm in a hurry. I see all the water problems, and I would include the fires in British Columbia as part of our water problems. ... So we need this agency yesterday, because it's one of our principal ways of dealing with the impacts of climate change in this country."*

*Ms. Phare worries that the CWA will resort to the status quo if Indigenous governments don't design it from the ground up, starting now. "You don't design an institution and then invite people to it if you want reconciliation," she says. "If we want to solve the water problem together, we build the institutions together and then we implement the institution together. We're accountable for the institution. Together – we share in its success together."*

### **The Dirty Secrets Behind Sudbury's Regreening**

*Despite the regreening of the area, Sudbury is threatened by four gigantic tailings impoundments filled with water-saturated, toxic mine waste. The largest, Vale's Copper Cliff Central Tailings Area, is 3,500 hectares in size — larger than the area regreened over a 40-year period. The tailings facility is surrounded by dams rated "high risk" by the Canadian Dam Association, due to their close proximity to residences, and that are similar to the Vale dams that collapsed in Brazil in 2015, killing 270 people. Were one of the Sudbury dams to collapse, it would be catastrophic. These dams will have to be monitored in perpetuity. Vale, however, has been allowed by the province to self-assure against the closure of its mines and smelters, so is not required to post any kind of bond or security to cover the clean-up. [Read the full article.](#)*

### **What Solidarity Is And How You Can Practice It**

*The Building Movement Project differentiates "transactional solidarity" — being a spectator, bystander or mildly interested participant — from "transformative solidarity," which requires us to challenge ourselves to commit for the long term, disrupt the status quo and deepen relationships rather than walk away when they become hard.*

*Focus on deep relationships: "When we build relationships, that's when solidarity becomes a practice," Iyer said. "Otherwise, it's just a vision or a hope." [Read the full article here.](#)*



**Blue Community - Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph**

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[Learn More](#)

**We have a Facebook page for this work too. Every week there are new posts for you to see and share.**

**All these updates and more can be found on**

**our CSJ Blue Community website:**

[BlueCommunityCSJ.org](http://BlueCommunityCSJ.org)