



Bottled Water Free Day

March 10, 2012

March 10, 2012 is Bottled Water Free Day in North America. Bottled water has negative economic, social, health, and environmental impacts in communities around the world.

Below is a sampling of information that can be found on the fact sheets at www.bottledwaterfreeday.ca

- Serious questions and concerns are raised where water is privatized. Should ability to pay define who can access water? What are the impacts of this kind of price value? Should profit guide the use of finite water resources that are essential to life itself?
- It is estimated that Canadian bottling plants receive government inspections once, on average every 3 to 5 years. City of Ottawa staff conducts over 125,000 tests of tap water per year and the City of Toronto checks its water for bacteria every 4 to 6 hours.
- Bottled water ranks as the 2nd largest commercial beverage sold in the US by volume and outpaces the consumption of coffee, tea, apple juice, and milk in Canada.
- The bottled water industry relies on container ships, trucks and cars to transport raw materials to the plants and finished products to where they are sold. Oil-based transportation contributes to global warming in the production of greenhouse gases.
- Bottled water manufacturers are the end point of a supply chain that contains some of the biggest polluters on the planet. The two primary raw materials in polyethylene terephthalate (PET plastic, used in most single serve bottles) are terephthalic acid (PTA) and monoethylene glycol (MEG), toxic chemicals that are derived from crude oil.

Vancouver's new new Seymour-Capilano water filtration plant came online in late 2009. Since then, people in Vancouver have noticed how clean their tap water is. When it reaches full capacity, this new plant will filter up to 1.8 billion litres of water per day. It's the largest water filtration plant in Canada and the largest in the world to use ultra violet (UV) light to filter water. This UV treatment means that less chlorine needs to be used in the treatment of Vancouver's tap water.

Encourage the students in your school to use water fountains and refillable metal water bottles. For more information about the impacts of bottled water, visit www.toxicfreecanada.ca or www.bottledwaterfreeday.ca