

water for people and nature

An international forum on conservation and human rights , July 5-8, 2001

final report



The
Council
of Canadians



Le
Conseil
des Canadiens

w a t e r f o r p e o p l e a n d n a t u r e

d e l ' e a u p o u r l e s g e n s e t l a n a t u r e

a g u a p a r a e l p u e b l o y p a r a l a n a t u r a l e z a



Kimy Pernia Domico,
Quebec City, April, 2000.
Indigenous Rights Workshop

Dedication

"Water for People and Nature: A Forum on Human Rights and Conservation" is dedicated to Kimy Pernia Domico. Kimy was invited to speak at the conference but disappeared on June 2, 2001 after being forcibly abducted in his native Colombia. Kimy fought tirelessly for the rights of his people and for the rights of indigenous peoples all over the world and in doing so advanced all of our dignity.



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introduction

an international forum on conservation and human rights, July 5-8, 2001

FOR SEVERAL YEARS EVENTS FROM THE 1992

Dublin Conference on the Environment to the 1998 UNESCO meetings in Paris have called for the commodification and privatization of the world's water as the only solution to environmental sustainability and universal access. Despite growing evidence to the contrary and driven by the world's largest water companies and organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund the demand to turn the earth's most precious resource over to corporations and the global market place has moved ahead almost unabated.

Not until the Second World Water Forum held in The Hague in March 2000 did the contradiction between the corporate exploitation of water and environmental sustainability and human rights become glaringly apparent. At that moment two things happened. At the same time as the empty promises of privatization became apparent the many groups from around the world fighting against corporate control of water began to see in themselves a force that could overcome the drive to privatize.

Many activists from around the world began to think that what was needed was an opportunity to link up with activists and experts in a forum where they could spend their time and efforts exchanging information and strategies to fight the impacts of the globalization of water. This was the simple idea that created "*Water for People and Nature: A Forum for Human Rights and Conservation*" held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada July 5-8, 2001.

Organized by the Council of Canadians' the Blue Planet Project, its was sponsored and supported by many groups from Canada and around the world such as The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Public Services International, International Rivers Network, CRACE, Globalization Challenge Initiative, The Vancouver City Credit Union and The Committee for a Global Water Contract. The Blue Planet Project was originally created to bring together activists from around the world to intervene in the Second World Water Forum. Importantly, "*Water for People and Nature*", which brought together more than one thousand

experts and activists from over forty countries and provide simultaneous translation in English, Spanish and French, while the Second World Water Forum accommodated English only, did so without any government or corporate contributions.

The outcome was a better connected global network of grassroots activists and international organizations committed to protecting the environment and human rights and determined to build a coordinated network of empowered communities to make it happen. In the closing plenary on Sunday July 8th, the participants unanimously endorsed an initiative for an international treaty to



protect water as part of the global commons we all share that cannot be carved up by the private sector and alienated from the communities and ecosystems that rely on it. This is the way forward; beyond the false logic of the market and its prophets. United, we are building a future where every human's right to a sufficient supply of safe, clean water is supported by a secure and sustainable environment.

This Final Report is not intended as an exhaustive record of the proceedings of "*Water for People and Nature*". It is offered to provide a glimpse into the international phenomenon that is the growing movement to protect the world's water from privatization, the diversity of experience and approaches from around the world, and to provide the reader with an opportunity to plug into this global struggle.

conference overview



DURING THE FOUR DAYS OF "Water for People and Nature," conference participants heard about the threat that globalization of water poses to people and the environment. Two themes predominated: human rights and conservation. The various perspectives of the speakers, and the many issues and currents running through the proceedings, all overlapped and reinforced the dangerous road the planet is following by relying on the global marketplace and the drive for profit to solve the world's water crisis.

The conference occurred against the backdrop of a successful fight to prevent the privatization of the water filtration plant for the Vancouver region. Only a week earlier, the Vancouver grassroots movement Water Watch, working with other local groups, had won their struggle against the privatization of their water. Water Watch is an all-Canadian initiative to bring diverse groups together in communities to prevent the privatization of water services.

Opening Night

On opening night the Chan Auditorium of the University of British Columbia was filled to capacity to hear The Council of Canadians' Maude Barlow, Gabriel Herbas from Cochabamba (Bolivia's Coordinadora), President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Judy Darcy, and Vandana Shiva. All of them spoke of the empty promises of privatization, the atrocious record of private water services around the world, the victories and ongoing struggles in many communities, and the need for greater coordination and solidarity as we move forward in this fight.

The questions from the floor showed that those who had come to the conference had for this struggle but also understood the need for new approaches in developing solutions around access and conservation. During the next two days we learned more about the problems with privatization, and saw that better solutions to the world's water

problems must start by rejecting the market logic that has dictated so many of the approaches that are forcing us down our current disastrous path.

Human Rights

The first day's plenary was devoted to protecting water as a fundamental human right. Speakers, including Riccardo Petrella, Secretary General of the Committee for a Global Water Contract, and Congressman Denis Kucinich of the United States Congress, described the incredible human crisis that confronts us and the threat posed by further corporate control of water. Dr. Petrella challenged the participants to create a new "water narrative" in opposition to that proposed by the water privatizers, who want water changed from a basic human right guaranteed by governments to a basic human need managed by the global marketplace. Congressman Kucinich described 10 "watermarks" for a better future. One of them: international trade agreements must guarantee the right of access to water, not threaten it.

Kimy Pernia Domico, a prominent indigenous activist from Colombia, was scheduled to speak about the rights of the world's indigenous people to their own resources, including water. Tragically, on June 2, 2001, Kimy was abducted at gunpoint and disappeared. Marta de la Vega, a Central American refugee and activist living in Vancouver, explained Kimy's absence to the conference and described the serious risks and great potential harm faced by those who stand up for the rights of indigenous people.

Chief Arthur Manuel, Chairperson of the Interior Alliance of British Columbia, then spoke about the failure and refusal of governments in Canada and around the world to recognize indigenous people's rights to their resources and self-determination. Governments pressure indigenous peoples to sign treaties surrendering their rights so their heritage can be handed over to corporations, and simultaneously sign international trade agreements that erase these peoples' inherent rights.

The plenary ended with a panel of activists from Canada and around the world. From Quebec to South Africa, they talked about the high-pressure

tactics, not only of the water companies, but of funding agencies like the World Bank that tie financial support to privatization. They discussed, too, the alternative financing structures that could be put in place to provide money for water services and other fundamental public services.

Conservation

The plenary for the second day focused on the damage being done to the environment by the corporate agenda for water. It was chaired by Joan Lui, a prominent youth and environmental activist in British Columbia. The morning presentations addressed the impact of corporate agriculture and the environmental and social consequences of major dam projects around the world. In addition, participants were challenged to wrestle with their assumptions about environmental regulation and policy.

The morning started with Dr. Michal Kravcik of Water and People, who demonstrated how development that interferes with the natural water cycle is a major contributor to climate change. Debi Barker from the International Forum on Globalization discussed the demands and impacts of corporate agriculture on water.

The conference was fortunate to welcome two key people in the fight against the impact of major dams. Lori Pottinger from the International Rivers Network and Lianne Grief from South Africa spoke about the environmental and social impacts of dams, and their work to impact the World Commission on Dams.

Two key environmental policy issues were addressed. The first was water pricing. Jamie Linton, a well-known Canadian environmental researcher, discussed the application and limits of water pricing in water conservation strategies. Patrick Bond from South Africa presented a paper on the social impact of water pricing and the enforcement of cost-recovery programs demanded by the World Bank.

Steven Shrybman, an expert in the impacts of trade agreements on environmental management, explained how international trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement and the agreement administered by the World Trade Organization threaten the capacity of governments



to implement and enforce laws to protect the environment. Trade, service and investment agreement tie the issues of investment and governance by favouring the rights of investors to make a profit over the rights of communities and governments to manage services and protect the environment.

Final Plenary

The final day's plenary focused on a commitment to action. Jean-Philippe Joseph from France outlined the corporate profiles and strategies of the world's biggest water companies. He also named the major lobby groups around the world actively pushing for governments, environmental groups and development agencies to adopt privatization as the only solution to the world's water problems.

Each of the workshops of the conference then delivered their key messages to the participants. All the workshops called on activists from around the world to build better networks and begin to coordinate their efforts across a variety of targets and strategies. Reports from the workshops follow this overview.

Tony Clarke of the Polaris Institute, which co-produced "The Final Frontier," a report on the

world's biggest water companies, outlined a five-step plan to advance our fight for human rights and environmental protection.

Finally, Maude Barlow read out an initiative for an international treaty to protect water as part of the global commons – that part of our common heritage that should never be turned over to corporate control and managed for corporate greed. The treaty initiative was unanimously endorsed by the conference participants. A copy of the treaty initiative follows this overview.

The conference ended with a prayer by Musqueam elder Emily Stogan, on whose traditional territory the University of British Columbia is located. Ms. Stogan blessed the participants and their work and urged us all to take the spirit of this conference with us to our homes and into our work to follow.

Each one of us who participated in "Water for People and Nature" went away with new information, part of an energized network of activists and experts committed to protecting the citizens of the earth and its environment from the movement to privatize and commodify the earth's most precious gift – water.

the treaty initiative

to share and protect the global water commons

WE PROCLAIM THESE TRUTHS TO BE UNIVERSAL AND INDIVISIBLE:

That the intrinsic value of the Earth's fresh water precedes its utility and commercial value, and therefore must be respected and safeguarded by all political, commercial and social institutions,

That the Earth's fresh water belongs to the earth and all species and therefore, must not be treated as a private commodity to be bought, sold and traded for profit,

That the global fresh water supply is a shared legacy, a public trust and a fundamental human right and, therefore, a collective responsibility,

And,

Whereas, the world's finite supply of available fresh water is being polluted, diverted and depleted so fast that millions of people and species are now deprived of water for life and,

Whereas governments around the world have failed to protect their precious fresh water legacies,

Therefore, the nations of the world declare the Earth's fresh water supply to be a global commons, to be protected and nurtured by all peoples, communities and governments of all levels and further declare that fresh water will not be allowed to be privatized, commodified, traded or exported for commercial purpose and must immediately be exempted from all existing and future international and bilateral trade and investment agreements.

The parties to this treaty - to include signatory nation states and Indigenous Peoples — further agree to administer the Earth's fresh water supply as a trust. The signatories acknowledge the sovereign right and responsibility of every nation and homeland to oversee the fresh water resources within their borders and determine how they are managed and shared. Governments all over the world must take immediate action to declare that the waters in their territories are a public good and enact strong regulatory structures to protect them. However, because the world's fresh water supply is a global commons, it cannot be sold by any institution, government, individual or corporation for profit.

For more information on the campaign for a treaty to protect water as part of the global commons, visit the Blue Planet web site at: www.canadians.org/blueplanet/index.html

indigenous peoples and water



WHEN THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS organized its “*Water for People and Nature*” Conference in Vancouver in July 2001 and invited activists from all over the world, we ensured that indigenous representatives were among them.

The First Nations House of Learning, a traditional longhouse on the campus of the University of British Columbia, hosted a preliminary workshop for indigenous peoples entitled: No Free Trade with Indigenous Property. After a traditional welcome by the Director of the First Nations House of Learning, Richard Vedan, and opening remarks by Chief Arthur Manuel of the Interior Alliance, everyone of the one hundred participants shared his/her experiences in the struggle to protect indigenous rights.

A consensus emerged that unless we protect the land and water rights of indigenous peoples and learn from their traditional knowledge all peoples, indigenous and non-indigenous, will suffer. Indigenous representatives were asked to help prepare an indigenous Declaration on Water that would then be presented to the Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Water. Prof. June McCue, Director of First Nations Legal Studies University of British Columbia, invited the drafting committee consisting of Jeannette Armstrong, Enokwin Center, Andrea Hillard, Eagle and Victoria Steere, Native American Fish & Wildlife Society to the Law Faculty and an initial draft was produced.

On the Second Day of the Conference a Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Water was held that attracted close to 100 participants. The discussions were preceded by the sharing of experiences of indigenous activists and representatives of indigenous peoples from other parts of the world, such as Bjarne Store Jacobsen of the Sami People in Arctic Europe, James Ward of the Mikmaq Nation in Burnt Church, Jeanne-Mance Carlisle Speaker for the Elders of the Innu Nation and her aunt Catherine, Chief Garry John, St’at’imc and Simon Lucas, Kla-Klist-ke-is of the Hesquiaht Nation, Coastal Co-Chair BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission.

Their comments inspired an interesting discussion on indigenous water rights. The draft declaration was presented to the participants of the workshop and comments were provided. Elders asked that the Declaration be drafted in a way and wording as indigenous peoples would use them. Professor McCue took on the responsibility of making the Declaration into a truly Indigenous Declaration, introducing it with an Indigenous Song on Water and wording it in the most beautiful way. Prof McCue read out the beautiful final declaration at the closing ceremony where it was adopted by acclamation. Since then the declaration has been circulated internationally. For more information see the resource section at the back of this report.

indigenous declaration on water

water is life: protect water now!

INDIGENOUS DECLARATION ON WATER JULY 8TH, 2001 MUSQUEAM TERRITORY

As Indigenous Peoples, we raise our voices in solidarity to speak for the protection of Water. The Creator placed us on this earth, each in our own sacred and traditional lands, to care for all of creation. We have always governed ourselves as Peoples to ensure the protection and purity of Water. We stand united to follow and implement our knowledge, laws and self-determination to preserve Water, to preserve life. Our message is clear: Protect Water Now!

As Indigenous Peoples, we recognize, honour and respect Water as a sacred and powerful gift from the Creator. Water, the first living spirit on this earth, gives life to all creation. Water, powerful and pristine, is the lifeblood that sustains life for all peoples, lands and creation. We know that by listening to the songs of the Water, all creation will continue to breathe. Our knowledge, laws and ways of life teach us to be responsible at all times in caring for this sacred gift that connects all life. In ceremony and as time comes, the Water sings. Her songs begin in the tiniest of streams, transforms to flowing rivers, travels to majestic oceans, and thundering clouds, and back to the earth, to begin again. When Water is threatened, all living things are threatened. Our hearts cry when we see the ways in which people, through governments and multinational corporations, destroy the Water in their greed. As Water has given us life, we must fight for the life of Water. We must continue to hear her songs and protect this sacred gift from the Creator. We must be prepared.

In this time, we see that our Waters are being polluted with chemicals, pesticides, sewage, disease and nuclear waste. We see our Waters being depleted or converted into destructive uses through the diversion of Water systems to different lands, unsustainable economic, resource and recreational development, the transformation of excessive amounts of Water into energy, and the treatment of Water as a commodity, a property interest, that can be bought, sold and traded in

global and domestic economies. We see our Waters governed by imposed foreign, colonial and inhumane laws and practices that disconnect us as Peoples from the ecosystem. These laws do not respect that life is sacred, that Water is sacred.

Throughout Indigenous territories worldwide, we are witnessing the increasing scarcity of fresh Waters and the lack of access that we and other life forms such as the land, forests, animals, plants, marine life, and air have to our Waters. In these times of scarcity, we see governments creating commercial interests in Water that lead to inequities in distribution and prevent our access to the life giving nature of Water.

When Water is disrespected, misused and poorly managed, we see the life threatening impacts on all of creation. We know that our Rights to Self-Determination, jurisdiction, knowledge and laws



to protect the Water are being disregarded, violated and disrespected. We hear the sad and painful songs of the Water, of the land and our peoples. We hear the Waters call for protection now.

As Indigenous Peoples, we express our power, to protect the Water and call on all others concerned to open your minds and hearts and listen to our protection song, our message and support the calls for actions that follow:

We recognize that Water is a sacred gift from the Creator that gives, sustains and nurtures all



life on earth. We recognize the need to share our understanding that Water is sacred and essential for the survival of all life on earth.

We recognize that as stewards of the lands and waters, and as sovereign peoples who will never sell nor trade their rights to Water, we Indigenous peoples retain inherent rights and responsibilities to protect Water.

We recognize that our knowledge and sustainable practices are essential links to the protection of Water. We recognize Indigenous governments and their jurisdiction to develop laws and treaties to protect Water.

We support the implementation of Indigenous legal systems in this effort. To retain our connection to our Waters, we must have the right to make decisions about Waters at all levels.

We resolve to communicate and express our power, our common interest to protect Water and life, through the building of Water alliances and networks worldwide.

We support all Indigenous peoples and grass roots movements that organize to protect Water based on their ancestral teachings and laws, and who also respect the role of Indigenous elders, women and youth to protect Water.

We call for the creation of an international

monitoring body to track the trade of Water in relation to Indigenous peoples.

We resolve to use and develop indigenous, domestic and international mechanisms to hold corporations, domestic governments and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund accountable for their actions that threaten the integrity of Water, our land and our peoples. Systems of restoration and compensation have to be put in place to restore the integrity of water and eco-systems.

We seek support and solidarity for the opposition to any free trade agreements that purport to privatize Water and trade Water as a commodity, including the North American Free Trade Agreement and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas.

We endorse declarations and treaties that enshrine the goals stated above such as the Cochabamba Declaration and the Treaty Initiative of the Council of Canadians representing genuine efforts by concerned citizens, communities and grass-roots peoples to protect water.

On this 8th day of July, 2001, the international community and indigenous peoples assembled at the International Conference on Water for People and Nature organized by the Council of Canadians, endorsed the Indigenous Declaration on Water.

workshop reports

youth organizing for change

BRINGING YOUTH TOGETHER to work towards a healthy planet creates a powerful voice when challenging existing structures, lobbying decision-makers, and educating the general public. We are interested in the diverse views and concerns that youth have identified surrounding fresh water issues and the ways they are addressing those concerns in their community. This conference provided youth with the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of experts, academics and activists in their search to find environmentally centered solutions to the growing water crisis.

The organizers of Water for People and Nature were committed to trying to facilitate real and active participation from young activists from around the world who are working on water issues in some capacity. Over the four days of the conference, two hundred young people from throughout BC, Canada and the world attended the event representing over 25 different organizations. Also in attendance were youth from Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Bolivia.

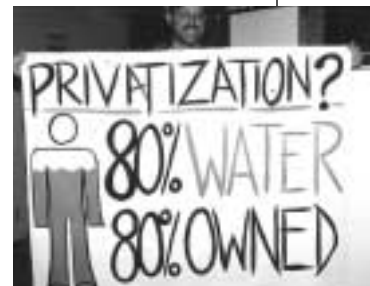
Participants included those who had extensive knowledge of water issues and those who had only an interest and unconfirmed concern for the precious natural resource. For many, concerns surrounding fresh water allows for interesting collaboration between environmental activism and anti-corporate globalization activism.

Over the weekend there were numerous check-in sessions facilitated by young activists from the Vancouver area. These sessions provided space for youth to debrief with each other the workshops and events of the day. On the Friday night we held a youth caucus session with the goal of leaving participants with a sense of a community extending around the world to those that are working on water issues and to establish strong enough relationships with people that would allow them to connect to the community after the conference is over. The evening included dinner, a multi-media presentation designed by youth, as well as introductions and exchanging our reasons we came to the conference and the related work we were doing. On Saturday

of the conference participants both young and old had the opportunity to come together for a workshop entitled "the Sea of Change". This effective tool enables groups to strategize towards common action and solidarity. An art installation by young artists was displayed throughout the conference as well.

The four-day event ended with a rally in Downtown Vancouver but for those who attended the conference it was just the start or the continuation of being active on these issues. High School students have begun global issues clubs in their school, in Nelson people have organized information tables for raves and community events and some have developed workshops on water and sustainability that can be provided to different conferences. One participant returned home re-energized and re-committed to the fight against the Boruca Dam in Costa Rica. Through connections made at the conference, contact information for a youth participants has been distributed through Check Your Head and is already proving to be an important tool for effective communication and action.

While in many ways the conference was successful in allowing for youth to attend, there were challenges surrounding the effective and real facilitation of youth voice and lessons have been learned. Integrated intergenerational events require real participation in all levels of planning and development of an event, material and agendas. Youth can't just be consulted, we have to be involved in the core process and allowed the responsibility of making decisions. Powerful action can be achieved across generations through respectful collaboration and commitment to cooperation.



strengthening public systems



Participants in the CUPE/PSI workshops made a splash when they delivered their findings to Sunday's closing plenary. Carrying signs emblazoned with pro-public slogans and demands in three languages, participants paraded into and around the main hall and up onto the stage, chanting "*Unite, to fight, public water is our right!*".

The mock demo energized the room, and had everyone on their feet cheering and chanting, capturing the spirit of the whole conference — that water is a public trust that cannot become a commodity.

Placards summarized the key messages coming out of a two-day workshop co-sponsored by the Canadian Union of Public Employees and Public Services International.

Among the placard messages were calls for:

- renewed and increased investment in public water systems to replace infrastructure as it ages;
- an end to public private partnerships and other forms of privatization;
- an end to governments and international financial institutions pushing privatization;
- high standards of quality and strong regulations that are backed by enforcement that works;
- water systems that ensure access to all;
- protection of water resources and services from trade deals; and

- the recognition of water as a basic human right, not a commodity.

Participants delivered a strong message, echoed in the plenary, that Public Works! best not just for Canadian water, but for water systems around the globe.

The theme of the first day was "*Fighting privatization.*" The workshop opened with a panel on the privatization threat and how unions are fighting back. The Canadian situation was covered in two CUPE presentations — one on the overall situation, and another on the Seymour water filtration fight as a success story. Representatives of the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) and Brazilian water workers brought an international perspective to the panel. Small groups then discussed ways to identify and counter the privateers; privatization's consequences for workers, the environment and local communities; and the role of international trade agreements.

Day two's theme was "*Strengthening public water systems*", with panelists looking at labour's vision for building, renewing and expanding well-functioning public water systems. David Boys of PSI discussed the international challenges and solutions, outlined in a new PSI paper distributed at the conference. CUPE's Morna Ballantyne discussed what's needed in the Canadian context. Gabriel Herbas, representing the Coordinadora of Cochabamba, Bolivia, outlined what residents of this city are facing now that water has returned to public hands. Jim Gladwin of the New Zealand water pressure group discussed their struggle with commercialization of water services, and the difficulties they have with user fees (including re-connecting citizens who have been cut off). And Honduran water worker Francisco Menjivar Suarez spoke of the lessons his union learned in their most recent privatization fight.

The workshop participants were clear that water privatization is not inevitable — in fact it is the pipe dream of the world's biggest corporations. There are public alternatives that will strengthen and expand water, ensuring everyone has access to this basic human right.

plugging into a global struggle



ONE OF THE CENTRAL THEMES OF "Water for People and Nature" was the need to formalize a global network of activists committed to stopping the privatization and commodification of our water. Since the conference attracted activists from over 40 countries, it was an excellent opportunity to begin new relationships, advance old ones and learn from struggles around the world.

The workshop began with a panel consisting of Maude Barlow from the Council of Canadians, Tony Clarke of the Polaris Institute, Antonia Juhasz of the International Forum on Globalization and Jim Gladwin and Penny Bright from the Water Pressure Group from New Zealand. Each described their perspective on the key issues driving water privatization. They outlined the corporate agenda that is driving privatization and how this is being codified and enforced through international trade agreements and how grassroots movements were organizing to fight in their communities. Penny Bright gave a demonstration on how to turn your water back on when the water company has cut you off! This is just some of the direct action that community groups are using in this global struggle.

Following the panel the participants divided into working groups to discuss the key elements driving privatization in their communities and strategize to fight back. The working groups reported back that building good local coalitions needs to be expanded to include building regional, national and international networks. Sharing information on privatization and the records and tactics of the global water companies was seen as one of the important benefits of working together. What is needed is an international network to disseminate information and facilitate connections between groups that are working towards the same end.

The issue of bulk water export was also seen as an opportunity to make some international connections. Groups throughout North America see plans to transport water to wherever the market dictates as a symptom of the ongoing neglect of our environment. Governments are determined to treat water as nothing more than a commodity. This will necessarily result in further environmental devastation. Water exports must be stopped.

water for power



BIG DAMS ARE DESTRUCTIVE, uneconomic and unfair “development” schemes. They have led to more than 60 million people being forcibly displaced, and left the world’s rivers struggling for survival. They have also led to an incredibly effective people’s movement world-wide, which is helping shift the paradigm. During the workshop on fighting major dams, activists from Africa, the US and elsewhere discussed the major issues facing the international people’s movement against dams, and successful strategies for fighting them.

Facilitated by Liane Greeff of the Environmental Monitoring Group in South Africa, and Ryan Hoover and Lori Pottinger from the International Rivers Network, the workshop began with a showing of “Large Dams, False Promises”. The video was followed by a series of informal talks by activists describing their experiences with anti-dam campaigns. The presentations ranged from the role of the multilateral development banks and the private sector in promoting this dinosaur technology, to the results of the 2-year study of the World Commission

on Dams, to case studies on Uganda, China, South Africa and Mozambique.

There was extensive discussion about how the recently released 2-year study by the World Commission on Dams can be used as a model for all development projects. The outcome of the report was largely the result of hard-fought activist intervention in the process. Participants learned how to best use the World Commission on Dams as a tool for campaigners.

The workshop reported back to the final plenary that there was extensive interest from Canadians in attendance to take a more aggressive stance against large dams, and to press the government to adopt WCD guidelines. They also noted that groups working on different water issues must build networks and cooperation to be more affective and consider a wide range of campaign strategies that combine grassroots mobilisation with lobbying governments and funding organisations like the World Bank.

the world bank and water privatization: struggles from around the world



THE GLOBALIZATION CHALLENGE INITIATIVE facilitated this workshop to look at how multi-lateral financial institutions like the World Bank are forcing water privatization through the funding of “development” projects.

The workshop consisted of several panels that discussed the impact of the policies of the World Bank. On the Latin America panel, representatives from Ecuador, Uruguay, Nicaragua and El Salvador discussed the promotion of water privatization through IMF and World Bank structural adjustment policies that had required years of cutbacks in the government budget with the result of deteriorating public services. Paying the debt to external creditors came before basic services like water, health and education.

On the Africa Panel representatives from Ghana, Tanzania, and Mozambique discussed World Bank and IMF tactics. In Ghana the World Bank and the IMF are requiring increased cost recovery (increased fees for water) as a prerequisite to privatization — to make it a more lucrative investment for the private sector. In Mozambique the water was privatized about one year ago and already there is some discontent in Maputu because rates are rising and service is worse with an increase in the number of disconnections.

The audience was very moved by the presentations and discussed strategies and actions they could take part in.

Fighting Factory Farms

Global Resource Action Centre for the Environment (GRACE) hosted this workshop and brought Canadian factory farm activists Lisa Bechtold and Carole Hougen to Vancouver to inform the participants of this growing threat. In a presentation they have given in many communities, they outlined the impacts of factory farms on communities. They described the threat they pose to property values, the animals they raise, the local economy, other nearby farms, public health and particularly water.

Dr. David Brubaker from the Spira/GRACE project in the United States spoke about the impact of intensive livestock operations on ground water. Factory farms place an enormous stress on local water by consuming vast amounts for the thousands of animals they raise. They also threaten water through leakage and overflow of liquid manure holding ponds and through the over utilisation of this waste as fertiliser. Factory farms are putting water at risk around the world.

final program

water for people and nature

Thursday, July 5, 2001

Arrival and Registration All Day

1:00pm – 6:00pm

Indigenous Workshop on Rights and Resources

First Nations House of Learning, U.B.C.
Free Admission

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Opening Ceremonies: Water for People and Nature: A Forum on Conservation and Human Rights:

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Master of Ceremonies

Lindsay Poaps:
Check Your Head

Speakers:

Maude Barlow
National Volunteer Chairperson,
The Council of Canadians
Judy Darcy
President,
The Canadian Union of Public Employees
Gabriel Herbas
La Coordinadora,
Cochabamba, Bolivia
Dr. Vandana Shiva
Research Foundation for Science,
Technology and Ecology,



Friday July 6, 2001

Plenary 1: Water for People

Chan Centre
Chair: Trevor Ngwane

9:00am – 9:15am

Jamie Dunn
Welcome and Introduction of Chair

9:15am – 9:30am

Chair comments and panel introduction
Panel

9:30am – 10:00am

Water as a Human Right
Riccardo Petrella
Secretary General, The Global Water Contract

10:00am – 10:30am

Indigenous Rights And Water
Kimy Pernia Domico
Spokesperson, Embera Katio, Colombia

10:30am – 11:00am

Congressman Dennis Kucinich
United States Congress
Panel

11:00am – 11:20am

What's Wrong with World Bank
Water & Sanitation Policies
Sara Grusky
Globalization Challenge Initiative

11:20am – 11:40am

Another Option
Robin Round
The Halifax Initiative
Panel
Organizing To Fight Back

11:40am – 12:30pm

Lance Veotte
 South African Municipal Workers Union
 Louise Vandelac
 Eau Secours
 Quebec, Canada

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Workshops

The World Bank and Water Privatization: Struggles from Around the World Facilitated by: Globalization Challenge Initiative
 Buchanan Room A-106

Indigenous Peoples and Water Facilitated by: The Interior Alliance of British Columbia
 Room Telus

Plugging into a global struggle Facilitated by: The Council of Canadians
 Chan Centre

Fighting Privatisation Facilitated by: the Canadian Union of Public Employees and Public Services International
 Curtis Law Room L-101/102/201

5:00pm – 11:30pm

Youth Caucus
 Telus Centre

6:00pm

U.S. Caucus
 Curtis Law Room L-178

Saturday July 7, 2001

Plenary 2: Water for Nature Chan Centre
 Chair: Joah Lui

9:00am – 9:15am

Introduction of Chair and Comments
 Speakers

9:15am – 10:00am

Rescuing the Water Cycle
 Michal Kravcik
 People and Water, Slovak Republic

10:00am – 10:45am

Trade Agreements and Water
 Steven Shrybman
 Sack, Goldblat, Mitchell

10:45am – 11:15am

Water and Agriculture
 Debi Barker
 International Forum on Globalization

11:15am – 11:45am

Valuing Water Beyond, "Just Price It"
 Patrick Bond
 South Africa
 Jamie Linton
 Canada

11:45am – 12:30pm

Dammed If You Do
 Lori Pottinger
 International Rivers Network
 Liane Greeff
 South Africa

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Workshops

Water for Power

Facilitated by: International Rivers Network
Chan Centre

Fighting Factory Farms

Facilitated by: Global Resource Action Center for the Environment
Buchanan Room A-106

An International Strategy to Stop Bulk Water Exports

Facilitated by: The Council of Canadians
Room Telus

Strengthening Public Systems

Facilitated by: the Canadian Union of Public Employees and Public Services International
Curtis Law Room L-101/102/201

8:00pm

The Big Splash

Ballroom Graduate Centre



Sunday July 8, 2001

Plenary 3: Time for Action Chan Centre

Chair: Maude Barlow

9:00am – 9:20am

Introduction of Chair and Comments

9:30am – 10:00am

So Who Wants Privatized Water?

Jean-Philippe Joseph
France

10:00am – 10:20am

Workshop Messages:
2 min key message from each workshop

10:25am – 11:00am

Getting Out There, Fighting From The Bottom Up

Tony Clarke
The Polaris Institute

11:30am – 12: 00pm

Closing ceremonies

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm – 5:00pm

Canadian Water Strategy Meeting

Buchanan Room A-106

resources

For further information please contact the Blueplanet Project by e-mail at: blueplanet@canadians.org or visit The Blueplanet web site at: www.canadians.org/blueplanet/index2.html

Organization	City, State/Province, Country	Email/Web Page
The Water Pressure Group	Auckland, New Zealand	greenleaf@pl.net http://www.water-pressure-group.org.nz
Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE)	New York, NY, USA	grace@gracelinks.org http://www.gracelinks.org
Halifax Initiative, The	Ottawa, ON, Canada	info@halifaxinitiative.org http://www.halifaxinitiative.org
Globalization Challenge Initiative	Tokoma Park, Maryland, USA	global.challenge@juno.com http://www.challengeglobalization.org/
Check Your Head	Vancouver, BC, Canada	info@checkyourhead.org http://www.checkyourhead.org
The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)	Ottawa, ON, Canada	http://www.cupe.ca/
Fobomade / Coordinadora	La Paz, Bolivia	fobomade@mail.megalink.com http://www.megalink.com/fobomade
The Council of Canadians	Ottawa, ON, Canada	blueplanet@canadians.org http://www.canadians.org/blueplanet/index2.html
VivendiWatch	France	http://listes.rezo.net/mailman/listinfo/vivendiwatch
Polaris Institute	Ottawa, ON, Canada	polarisinstitute@on.aibn.com http://www.polarisinstitute.org
South African Municipal Workers Union - SAMWU Head Office	Athlone, South Africa	infotech@samwu.org.za http://www.cosatu.org.za/samwu/
Committee for a Global Water Contract	Brussels, Belgium	anne.dufour@cec.eu.int http://www.f1boat.com/99/watermanifesto.html
People and Water	Kosice, Slovak Republic	info@changenet.sk http://www.changenet.sk
Eau Secours	Montreal, QB, Canada	webmaster@eausecours.org http://www.eausecours.org/
Environmental Monitoring Group	Wynberg, Cape Town, South Africa	emg@global.co.za http://www.botany.uwc.ac.za/inforeep/emg.htm
International Rivers Network	Berkeley, California, USA	info@irn.org http://www.irn.org
Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology	New Delhi, India	http://www.vshiva.net
International Forum on Globalization	San Francisco, CA, USA	ifg@ifg.org http://www.ifg.org
Sierra Club of Canada	Ottawa, ON, Canada	sierra@web.ca http://www.sierraclub.ca/
Interior Alliance	BC, Canada	http://www.puebloindio.org/ONU_info/info2000/GTPI2000_INTERIOR.htm
World Commission on Dams	Vlaeberg, Cape Town, South Africa	http://www.dams.org/
Public Services International	Ferney-Voltaire Cedex, France	webmaster@world-psi.org http://www.world-psi.org/
Public Services International Research Unit	Greenwich, London	psiru@psiru.org http://www.psimu.org/
Public Citizen	Washington, D.C., USA	member@citizen.org http://www.citizen.org/

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