

April 22, 2025

*To federal parties and candidates of the 2025 elections*

## **The protection of freshwater in Canada is non-negotiable**

### **An Open Letter to protect the water**

Freshwater in Canada is priceless. Defending its future and maintaining its health must be a top priority.

President Trump is [threatening to tear up water agreements](#), which are intended to safeguard 80% of North America's freshwater.

In parallel, The U.S. administration is dismantling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This weakening and removal of environmental initiatives and legislation would harm shared ecosystems, while likely [benefiting extractive industries and corporations](#).

Aquatic ecosystems and transboundary waters are not faucets to be turned on and off, diverting large amounts of water out of entire watersheds. We will continue to see growing and severe water constraints on the nation's freshwater resources.

*We, the undersigned, demand that each political party and candidate commit to protect and defend the integrity of watersheds in Canada, their ecosystems and all agreements that protect them.*

1. Enforce and strengthen policies that protect freshwater, including *The International Boundary Waters Treaty Act* and *The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, the *Columbia River Treaty* and all Canadian legislation that protects water;
2. Prevent water privatization and bulk export of water and ensure Indigenous sovereignty is respected and upheld;
3. Invest in freshwater research, restoration and health;
4. Respect Indigenous nations' sovereignty and water rights, including inherent, treaty, and legislative rights which extend to the shared governance and protection of healthy water resources.

Canadian leaders alongside sovereign Indigenous nations and leadership are stewards of these lands and waters.

Together we must ensure the waters that flow from coast to coast to coast are healthy, sustainable, and resilient for future generations.

Freshwater in Canada is not for sale.

***Signatories:***

350 Canada

Action environnement Basses Laurentides  
Alberta Wilderness Association  
AREQ (CSQ)  
Association Lac Laurel  
Association pour la protection du lac Labrecque  
Association pour la santé publique du Québec  
Association Québécoise de Lutte contre la Pollution Atmosphérique (AQLPA)  
Ateliers pour la biodiversité  
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)  
Canadian Health Assoc for Sustainability and Equity (CHASE)  
Canadian Interfaith Fast For the Climate  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)  
Centrale des syndicats démocratiques (CSD)  
Centre d'interprétation de l'eau de Laval  
Change On The Ground Projects  
The ChariTree Foundation  
Clayoquot Action  
Climate Caucus  
Coalition pour une navigation responsable et durable  
Comité de concertation et de valorisation du bassin de la rivière Richelieu  
(COVABAR)  
Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain - CSN  
Conseil des bassins versants des Mille Îles  
The Council of Canadians  
Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of AthabascaA  
Cyclo Nord-Sud  
Delta N-90 Trappers  
Dragonfly Ventures  
Earthroots  
Eau Secours  
Environment Hamilton  
Environment North  
Environmental Defence  
ENvironnement JEUnesse  
Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ)  
Fondation Rivières  
For Our Kids Alberta  
Foresight Canada  
Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets  
Greenpeace Canada  
Groupe d'éducation et d'écosurveillance de l'eau  
Groupe de recommandations et d'actions pour un meilleur environnement  
(GRAME)  
Healthy Waters Lac La Biche  
Indigenous Climate Action  
Keepers of the Water

Kootenay Lakes Seniors for Climate  
L'Assomption en transition  
Land Lovers Network  
Les AmiEs de la Terre de Québec  
Living Lakes Canada  
Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre  
Mères au front  
Mouvement d'éducation populaire et d'action communautaire du Québec (MÉPACQ)  
Nature Canada  
Niisitappi  Water Protectors  
Northern Confluence Initiative  
Office de la pastorale sociale - Église catholique de Montréal  
The Ontario Headwaters Institute  
Organisme de bassin versant de la Yamaska  
Organisme de bassin versant du fleuve Saint-Jean  
Organisme de bassins versants de Kamouraska, L'Islet et Rivière-du-Loup (OBAKIR)  
Organisme des bassins versants du Nord-Est du Bas-Saint-Laurent  
Ottawa Riverkeeper | Garde-rivière des Outaouais  
Réalité Climatique Canada  
Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec  
Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec (RNCREQ)  
Regroupement Vigilance Énergie Québec  
Réseau de milieux naturels protégés  
Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes (RQGE)  
Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation  
Seniors for Climate Action Now!  
Shapiro & Company  
Sierra Club Canada  
The Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee  
Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE)  
StopLine5  
Syndicat de la fonction publique et parapublique du Québec (SFPQ)  
TerraVie  
Travailleuses et travailleurs pour la justice climatique  
Vigilance OGM  
Vivre en Ville  
Water Watchers  
Wildsight, Conservation Director  
ZIP des Seigneuries  
Zone Bayonne