

WATER CONFIDENTIAL

Witnessing Justice Denied

The Fight for Safe Drinking
Water in Indigenous and
Rural Communities in Canada

SUSAN BLACKLIN

WITH FOREWORDS BY
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Readers are asking how they can affect change! They want to know what they can do to let the government know how shocked they are and how deplorable the drinking water situation is in Canada. This National Petition to demand that the Federal Government implement National Drinking Water Regulations is the first step. Read *Water Confidential: Witnessing Justice Denied - The Fight for Safe Drinking Water in Indigenous and Rural Communities in Canada* to understand the full extent of the problem, and please sign this petition by **December 7, 2024 at 11:49 a.m.!**

Canadians Need Legally Enforced Drinking Water Regulations

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Sign/e-5164>



After this electronic petition receives 500 "signatures" (names and basic contact information) from residents of Canada, MP Lori Idlout will present it in the House of Commons for a formal response. It will be closed for signature on December 7, 2024 at 11:49 a.m. Note: After you have filled in your signature details, you will receive an email from the government website asking you to confirm that you agree to the petition. You must hit the confirm link before your signature is registered. Note: You must be a citizen or resident of Canada to sign the petition. There is no minimum age.

Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- Canada is one of only two countries in the developed world that do not have national drinking water regulations;
- Canada annually reports over 400,000 episodes of enteric disease deemed to be related to drinking water;
- The responsibility for providing safe drinking water in Canada is divided among federal, provincial, municipal, and territorial governments – with varying guidelines or standards;
- The most critical component of producing safe drinking water is protecting the quality of source waters, and First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and rural Canadians must be empowered to protect their source waters;
- First Nations people reject Bill C-61, as it gives them liability instead of responsibility for their water;
- In 2010, Canada supported United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292 in recognizing that clean drinking water and sanitation are the basis of all human rights; and
- The World Health Organization produces international guidelines on water quality and human health that serve as the basis for setting regulations and standards worldwide.

We, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the Minister of Health to respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and all people living in Canada to safe drinking water and – in full partnership with First Nations, Métis, Inuit, provincial, municipal, and territorial governments – to establish National Drinking Water Regulations that meet or exceed the guidelines established by the World Health Organization.