



March 1, 2021

Dear City of London Civic Works Committee,

Water and sanitation are human rights, and should be publically owned and operated for the benefit of all.

The London and District Labour Council (LDLC) Executive endorses the Blue Communities Project, initiated by the Council of Canadians and The Canadian Union of Public Employees. The project calls upon communities to adopt a water commons framework by:

- Recognizing water and sanitation as human rights.
- Banning or phasing out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events.
- Promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services.

The LDLC recognizes the efforts enacted by London City Council in banning the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities. This is the first step in recognizing bottled water represents a private takeover of the water commons and the damaging consequences plastic water bottles have on our environment.

We urge the City of London to join 47 other Canadian Blue Communities and 31 other Blue Water communities around the world by adopting these three resolutions.

Our executive adopted the following recommendation on March 1, 2021. The recommendation will also be presented for endorsement to our General Membership during our March 10, 2021 regular meeting.

Subject: Blue Communities

BECAUSE there is nothing more important than clean water. We need it for drinking, sanitation, and household uses. Communities need water for economic, social, cultural and spiritual purposes.

BECAUSE water services and resources are under growing pressure. Communities everywhere – including in Canada – are experiencing extreme weather, including record levels of drought, intense rain and flooding. At the same time, privatization, the bottling of water, and industrial projects are threatening our water services and sources.

THE LONDON AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Blue Communities Project of the Council of Canadians and Canadian Union of Public Employees, which calls upon communities to adopt a water commons framework by:

- Recognizing water and sanitation as human rights.
- Banning or phasing out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events
- Promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services.