

National Water Strategy

Whereas water is a scarce resource and will be one of the most important resources in the 21st Century

Whereas the Federal Environment portfolio is responsible for many environmental issues preventing a dedicated focus on water policy

Whereas responsibility for Water falls to Municipal, Provincial and Federal Levels of Government and issues of water cross borders between Municipalities, Provinces and Countries and different governments provide for different water laws for resource extraction, industry, recreation and consumption and monitor and enforce laws in different ways.

Whereas industry, rural and urban communities have a responsibility to maintain the natural character of aquifers, rivers and other bodies of water.

Whereas on July 28, 2010 the United Nations adopted a resolution that recognizes access to clean water and sanitation as a human right.

Whereas responsible water Policies seek an appropriate balance between economic objectives, the protection of water as a finite resource, and the assurance of public health and safety.

Be it resolved that the Liberal Government of Canada develop an overarching National Water Strategy and appoint a Junior Minister for Water reporting to the Environment Minister whose responsibilities would include:

- 1) Appointment of non Partisan Scientific Board to Develop National Water Strategy
- 2) Include input from Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to ensure provincial input into the Strategy
- 3) Geomapping of Freshwater resources in Canada and drawing up guidelines for its use with regard to industry recreation and human consumption
- 4) Do hydrological studies with respect to climate change and develop guidelines to estimate future water needs
- 5) Develop National Guidelines for water protection ie protection of wetlands, riparian areas watersheds and water ecosystem protection including protection of fish species. These guidelines need to be developed to include cumulative impacts of resource extraction (specifically impacts of fracking and oilsands production) industry such as mining and logging in watersheds, farming (irrigation), recreation and human consumption.
- 6) Develop National Guidelines to provide for Monitoring Programs and Penalties for infractions of Protection Laws.
- 7) Include water labelling for Industry and production of goods to help estimate consumption needs and life cycle analysis of goods for consumers.