

We invite you to become a part of the local and global movement for water justice by joining the **Blue Communities Project** – an initiative that promotes a water commons framework for local governments.

Learn what you can do as a community activist, public sector worker or elected official to help protect the water commons from increasing pressure to put water up for sale and privatize water services.

## PROTECTING WATER FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

A water commons framework treats water as a common good that is shared by everyone and the responsibility of all. Because water is essential for human life, it must be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment in order to preserve water for nature and future generations.



For more information:  
[canadians.org/bluecommunities](http://canadians.org/bluecommunities)  
[cupe.ca/water](http://cupe.ca/water)



**CUPE·SCFP**

Paint the town Blue!

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The Blue Communities Project encourages municipalities to adopt a water commons framework by:

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



## WHY BLUE COMMUNITIES?

Waterways are increasingly polluted and depleted by unsustainable industrial and agricultural activities. Many municipal wastewater treatment systems need upgrading to properly protect source waters, and municipalities must lead the way on water conservation efforts.

Our water services face the growing threats of underfunding and privatization. The need to protect water resources and services is urgent and governments must play a central role in ensuring water is used responsibly and allocated fairly.

## "IT'S TIME FOR A NEW WATER ETHIC."

– Maude Barlow  
Blue Planet Project founder

Municipalities are responsible for water quality, supply, treatment and conservation. The adoption of a water commons framework to address these problems at the community level is crucial in the fight to preserve water and ensure fair access for all.

A growing network of municipalities have become Blue Communities in Canada, where the project started. The project has expanded to other parts of the world. In September 2013, Bern, Switzerland became the first Blue Community outside of Canada.

The Blue Communities Project was created to help community activists and local leaders protect the water commons – our shared water resources and services. As a public sector worker, elected official or community activist pursuing the recognition of a “Blue Community,” you will become part of a growing international movement for public water.