



For Immediate Release

15 September 2009

### **Halifax Bans Bottled Water!**

#### *HRM Takes Important First Step – More Still Needed*

**HALIFAX** – Halifax Regional Municipality today voted to immediately phase out the purchase and provision of bottled water in City Hall and ensure access to public tap water in all HRM facilities.

Regional Council also asked staff to come forward with detailed action plans before banning bottled water within all HRM facilities

“Halifax’s decision to ban the bottle and turn on the tap is an important first step and a clear indication that bottled water’s 15 minutes are up,” says Jocelyne Rankin of the Ecology Action Centre. “While Halifax didn’t go far enough by taking the bottle out of all city facilities, today’s vote is a sign that we’re moving in the right direction”

“Today’s vote demonstrates that Council is beginning to recognize that everyone should have access to the wonderful clean drinking water that Halifax Water provides, and should not have to pay for water,” explains Angela Giles of the Council of Canadians. “This initial step brings us closer to communities across Canada that have already committed to phasing out bottled water in support of the tap”.

#### **Bottled Water Restrictions in Canada:**

- 69 municipalities from 8 provinces and 1 territory have banned the bottle.
- 33 universities and colleges have established bottled water free zones
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) passed a resolution in 2009 urging all members to phase out the sale and provision of bottled water in municipal facilities.

-30-

#### *For more information contact:*

Angela Giles  
 The Council of Canadians  
 (o) 422.7811  
 (c) 478.5727

Jocelyne Rankin  
 Ecology Action Centre  
 (o) 442.5046  
 (c) 220.3800