

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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Bottle ban bold move

As the NDP government celebrates its first year in power, the Turn on the Tap, Ditch the Bottle coalition would like to commend it for its groundbreaking commitment to ban bottled water in government buildings. Nova Scotia may be the first province in Canada to take this bold step, but we join many other municipalities, campuses and school boards across the country in re-committing to the tap.

There are many reasons to ban the bottle. The environmental impact of the bottled water industry is usually the first to come to mind, but opposing the notion of water as a tradable good (a commodity) and recognizing that access to clean drinking water is a human right are just as important.

At a time when many households and governments are trying to save money, doesn't it make sense to stop buying water and to turn on the tap instead? We have some of the safest drinking water in the world, and it's free! As a next step, we'd like to see the Nova Scotia government extend the ban to hospitals and other provincially owned facilities as well as commit funding to improve access to public water in public spaces.

Turn on the Taps,

Ditch the Bottle Coalition

(Ecology Action Centre, CUPE Nova Scotia, The Council of Canadians, KAIROS Halifax, Polaris Institute, Canadian Federation of Students - Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Environmental Network, Oxfam Canada: Maritimes, Clean Nova Scotia and Hydro Heroes)