

Whereas the consumption of bottled water currently outpaces that of coffee, tea, apple juice and milk in Canada and is the fastest growing segment of the North American beverage industry; and

Whereas beverage exclusivity contracts between companies and schools and municipalities are typically negotiated in secret with little meaningful debate and limit the opportunity for conscious consumer choices to support local businesses and public water supplies; and

Whereas bottled water is 240 - 10,000 times more expensive than water from the tap, even though more than 25% of the water originates from the municipal tap system; and

Whereas plastic bottles release dangerous toxic chemicals and contaminants into the air and water contributing to environmental degradation when they are manufactured and again when they are burned and buried; and

Whereas bottled water requires oil based transportation and contributes to global warming while tap water is energy efficient in its delivery; and

Whereas there is evidence that the bottled water industry has actively sought to undermine community recycling efforts by funding opposition to bottle bills and tougher recycling rules; and

Whereas toxic contaminants such as arsenic, mercury and bromides have been found in independent, peer reviewed scientific studies of bottled water; and

Whereas commercial bottlers pay little or nothing in fees to access water, one of the most unregulated resources in Canada; and

Whereas the bottled water industry suggests that their product is more pure and healthy than tap water, when tap water is tested more stringently than bottling plants; and

Whereas public tap water is safe and healthy and significantly more accessible, and environmentally sustainable than bottled water,

Therefore be it resolved that *(Insert message here)* For example, this could include: bottled water no longer be purchased, distributed or sold in vending machines, at meetings and conferences and in replacement, if deemed appropriate, water jugs with tap water be made available. Formulating a demand for investing in water fountain infrastructure or increasing the number of fountains may also be appropriate.

Be it further resolved that steps are taken to further raise awareness of why bottled water is being banned.

Reference: *“Inside the Bottle: Exposing the Bottled Water Industry”*
www.insidethebottle.org