

June 9, 2021.

MP Michael Chong,
A-190 St. David Street South
Fergus, ON N1M2L3

Dear Michael,

Triton Water Holdings Canada Inc. (Triton) is applying for a ten-year permit to take water (PTTW) for bottling at the Aberfoyle and Hillsburgh wells in Wellington County. Both of these wells are located in the riding of Wellington-Halton Hills, which you represent. PTTWs are a matter of provincial responsibility. However, we believe it is a national concern that US private equity investors based on Wall Street seek to profiteer from groundwater in Canada. While bottling water is a low-priority, waste-producing, fossil fuel intensive, and unnecessary use of groundwater it is extracted without the explicit consent of First Nations.

Triton does not have the consent of First Nations. The application to renew the permit is based on work done under the previous ownership of Nestle' Waters Canada (NWC). NWC failed to consult the elected Band Council of Six Nations has never been consulted and has never given consent. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council issued a cease-and-desist order two years ago (June 7, 2019). In addition, it contravenes the inherent treaty and title rights of Indigenous peoples to delegate the duty to consult. Nation to Nation relationships require that this consultation should be directly with the Crown, not with Triton/Nestle' .

It is for these reasons that I have walked from Guelph to your office in Fergus to renew Wellington Water Watchers' (WWW) opposition to these permits to take water for bottling.

Triton Waters application for a 10-year renewal of the permits is simply not credible, as it is highly unlikely that Triton Water will still be the owner in ten years. Triton Water Holdings Canada Inc. (Triton) is a different type of business than Nestle'. Metropoulos is a buy-and-sell company, not a buy-and-hold company like Nestlé. It acquires underperforming brands, streamlines operations to cut costs, and implements risky financial tools to extract value before selling to investors at a profit. The turnaround from purchase to sale typically takes only four to seven years. ([See Blue Triton Fact Sheet](#)). This is sufficient reason to deny Triton a PTTW.

The real business of Triton, as with Nestle' Waters Canada, is producing plastic bottles. The bottling plant in Aberfoyle will continue to package water in single use plastic bottles – 3.2 million every day – half of which will result in landfill or litter. Single use plastic has a heavy carbon footprint in its life-cycle from production to distribution, and breaks down into microplastics, a growing threat to wildlife and to human health.

Finally, the climate crisis makes the availability and security of water less certain. Extracting groundwater for bottling is a frivolous use of the lowest priority. It should be conserved for future generations, not sold as a commodity to the benefit of Wall Street profiteers.

I invite you to join me in my belief that water is for life, not Wall Street, and make a public statement opposing Triton's application for a permit to take water for bottling in Wellington County.

Sincerely,

Shane Philips,
Wellington Water Watchers
42 Carden Street, Guelph, ON N1H 3A2