



Sandy Shaw

MPP, HAMILTON WEST-ANCASTER-DUNDAS

March 22, 2021

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

For decades, Nestlé Waters — the world's largest water bottler — has bought up access to public water across North America to turn our most precious public resource into a private commodity. Nestlé only pays Ontario \$503.71 per million litres extracted. This buys them the ability to deplete our water tables, harm our ecosystems, produce billions of single use plastic bottles – all while pocketing millions in profits. They do this without the consent – in fact, with vocal opposition – from the Indigenous communities on whose territory they operate. As the climate crisis worsens and we collectively work towards reconciliation, Ontarians know protecting our water is of the utmost importance.

Now Nestlé is planning to sell its Nestlé Waters North America division including The Aberfoyle complex of Nestle Waters Canada in Wellington County, Ontario (Pure Life brand). This is a massive transfer of private 'water wealth' is estimated at \$4 billion. Small and rural communities cannot afford to compete with Wall Street speculators for Ontario's groundwater.

Today marks World Water Day 2021 – Valuing Water. Ontario contains about one-fifth of the world's fresh water it is our responsibility to protect our water for future generations. Despite this incredible bounty of water, access to it is deeply unequal. In Ontario, 30 percent of First Nations communities have drinking water advisories. Multiple First Nation communities have lived under boil water advisories for decades. Water is a human right, it should not be withheld, negotiated away behind closed doors, or exploited by corporations for profit.

What is your government doing to prevent the ongoing privatization of Ontario's water, ensure universal access to clean drinking water, and to better protect our water for future generations to use?

Queen's Park

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Ontarians know we need to be doing more to protect our water. In recognition of World Water Day I am calling on you to take action.

1. Water should be treated as a public trust not a commodity for sale. Commit now to stop continued water privatization in our province. Do not allow Nestles permits to be transferred as part of any sale extend the moratorium on new permits to take water for commercial water bottling.
2. Work with impacted workers and communities to provide a just transition for impacted workers in the bottled water industry, as well as economic transition plans for communities reliant on tax revenues from these water bottling facilities.
3. Many homes in Six Nations, whose treaty territory Nestle extracts ground water from, lack access to consistent clean drinking water. It is abhorrent that this water is trucked around the world to be sold at a profit, especially when First Nations communities in Ontario have been systemically denied clean drinking water. Please do not continue to engage in jurisdictional games with the federal government. There are lives at risk. It is your responsibility to ensure that First Nations communities, have their basic human rights secured – this includes having access to clean water.

We are in a climate crisis and the existing stresses on our water will only worsen if we do not act now. On World Water Day, I am urging you to listen to Ontarians across this province, ensure water is for life not profit and that everyone has access to clean drinking water.

Sincerely,

Sandy Shaw
MPP Hamilton-West, Ancaster, Dundas