



# Take the Plunge: Bottle Water Action Options for Municipalities

## **Phase out the sale and distribution of bottled water in City facilities**

- Prohibit the use of municipal government funds to purchase or distribute bottled water. Why not start with City Hall (Council meetings, bottled water available in department offices) and develop a strategy to phase out bottled water in city facilities and sponsored events
- Begin dialogue with vendors in city owned and leased space towards ending the sale of bottled water
- Remove bottled water sold in vending machines in city owned and leased space (develop a provision regarding bottled water for upcoming agreement renewals)

## **Providing and promoting alternatives to bottled water**

- Provide access to tap water in city owned and leased spaces by maintaining, reinstating and installing new water fountains. Alternatively, install bottle-less water dispensers which use tap water
- Encourage the use of carafes and glasses at meetings and events
- Start a tap water awareness campaign which encourages tap water consumption in municipal buildings. Work towards extending this awareness campaign to the broader public of the community
- Commit to advocating for and upgrading public water services

## **Help combat the growing number of PET plastic beverage containers found in landfills**

- Implement or expand a municipal level bottle bill (also known as a container deposit system) or advocate for a provincial or state bill to include polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic beverage containers. Bottle bills increase recycling rates and help reduce the number of these bottles in landfills

## **'Right-to-know' policies**

- Ensure that residents can access information about companies using municipal tap water or groundwater in the area (where jurisdictions apply) including the number of water bottlers in the municipality, company names, amount of water extracted and rates charged on a daily basis
- Beverage exclusivity contracts and proposals for the sale of bottled water in public institutions need to be subject to 'right-to-know' policies

## **Foster accountability**

- Develop and implement policies that enhance accountability including transparency and public consultation around the approval of the use of water for water bottling
- Consider increasing charges for sourcing tap water for water bottling purposes to correspond with the significant private profits being made using a public resource; use this revenue to contribute to the costs of sustaining and retrofitting municipal water systems and water conservation measures

*For More Information visit [www.insidethebottle.org](http://www.insidethebottle.org).*