



This is a Bottled Water Free Zone

Why should we say NO to bottled water?

THE ENVIRONMENT : From production to disposal, bottled water is a major contributor to global water scarcity and climate change. The Bow River Keeper estimates that, for example, the manufacturing and transport of a 1 KG bottle of Fiji water in Toronto consumes 26.88 KG of water, 0.849 KG of fossil fuel, and emits 562 G of greenhouse gases. Tap water, by contrast, usually travels less than 10 km to reach you and does not involve any packaging. In Toronto, we are dealing with a waste management crisis and we cannot continue to support the amount of waste we produce – yet as many as 65 million empty plastic water bottles/year end up in our landfills.

OUR HEALTH & OUR WEALTH: Bottled water is 240 to 10 000 times more expensive than tap water and yet is tested much less frequently and stringently than tap water in Toronto (water bottling plants are inspected on average once every three years versus tap water which is tested continuously, both during and after treatment)

THE RIGHT TO WATER: In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the human right to water and sanitation. The bottled water industry compromises the actualization of this global right to water by: depleting our water sources through resource mismanagement; and undermining government investment and public trust in our public water infrastructure. The bottled water industry is philosophically and practically incompatible with a vision of the world in which everyone -regardless of wealth or status – has equal access to safe and clean water.

Sources:
Council of Canadians
Polaris Institute