



CONTACT: [joanne@emptyglassforwater.ca](mailto:joanne@emptyglassforwater.ca)  
FACEBOOK: Empty Glass for Water

I want clean  
drinking water  
for all  
communities.

CHERYL SUGGASHIE, OJIBWE ANISHINAABE KWE  
NORTHERN ONTARIO FIRST NATION COMMUNITY

Support the  
Empty Glass for Water Campaign:

Mail an EMPTY GLASS FOR WATER to:

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa  
K1A 0A2

Let us know you sent in your glass:  
Facebook group: Empty Glass for Water  
[joanne@emptyglassforwater.ca](mailto:joanne@emptyglassforwater.ca)

Greet, pray & leave tobacco  
at all bodies of water.

Photograph by Joanne Robertson 2009

empty  
glass  
for  
water

**Assembly of First Nations Resolution no. 19/2009 adopted on the 10th day of September, 2009 in Gatineau, Quebec and signed by National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo. The Chiefs of Canada support this effort!**

TITLE: Empty Glass for Water Campaign  
SUBJECT: Water  
MOVED BY: Chief, Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation, Ontario  
SECONDED BY: Chief, Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, Ontario

**WHEREAS:**

A. Water is essential to life, and is enshrined in two human rights treaties that recognize the inherent right to water (see: [http://www.righttowater.info/code/no15\\_3.asp](http://www.righttowater.info/code/no15_3.asp)).  
B. Canada has an abundance of fresh water and most Canadians take the safety of their tap water for granted, yet many First Nation communities must haul their water, boil their water, drink bottled water, and accept water rations;  
C. Some 109 First Nation communities in Canada are without safe drinking water; some for longer than a decade, and First Nations do not trust what comes out of their taps;  
D. Our waters are being poisoned by industry, contaminated with uranium, contain harmful chemicals and bacteria such as E. Coli;  
E. Our children get sore and boils on their bodies from water due to an inadequate sanitation infrastructure resulting in illness and disease in later life (see: [http://www.polarisinstitute.org/boiling\\_point](http://www.polarisinstitute.org/boiling_point)).  
F. Water is an integral part of our cultures and ceremonies, and it is our responsibility assert our rights to it in order to better protect and preserve it;  
G. The Chiefs of Ontario have declared that decision-making processes related to the use and care of waters is a right maintained by First Nations and was not handed over with the making of treaties (see: <http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/Assets/COO%20long%20form%20declaration.pdf>).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:**

1. Assert that access to clean, safe water is a human right.
2. Encourage the governments of Canada and the provinces to immediately provide resources to high risk communities to implement their plans to provide safe, potable water for their communities.
3. Support the national campaign to enlist all Canadians to show their support for clean, safe water for First Nations by sending an empty glass for water to Prime Minister Harper until all First Nations people can go to a tap in their home and drink water without fear; and
4. Support the "Empty Glass for Water Campaign" as a campaign that draws attention to the urgent need to address issues relating to access to safe, potable water in First Nation communities.

All Resolutions from the 2009 Annual General Assembly may be viewed at [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)



Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana FN & PM

## Tell the Prime Minister that water is a human right!

There are currently 116 (Apr 2010, Health Canada) First Nation communities in Canada under 'boil-water advisories' – some for more than a decade!

Our governments, federal and provincial, need to stop putting profit before people and work with our First Nations leaders and get safe water flowing into glasses. Water is essential to life, and is enshrined in two human rights treaties that recognize the inherent right to water. ([http://www.righttowater.info/code/no15\\_3.asp](http://www.righttowater.info/code/no15_3.asp))

We need to show the Prime Minister the numbers of people that go without this basic human right. So please join me in sending an empty glass for water to parliament hill; an empty glass for every person in the 116 First Nation communities that are currently invisible.

Please let your communities, classmates, facebook groups, faith groups, friends, coworkers and family know. All of us that have drinking water need to stand up for those that don't. Think of how many times you go to a tap every day. Brushing your teeth, bathing, doing dishes, making coffee or tea, flushing the toilet... countless times per day... we don't even give it a second thought. I'm asking you to think about it now. Mail in a glass.

**FURTHER READING**

Boiling Point [http://www.polarisinstitute.org/boiling\\_point](http://www.polarisinstitute.org/boiling_point)  
Report of the Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations [http://www.eps-sdw.rprt/index\\_e.asp](http://www.eps-sdw.rprt/index_e.asp)  
First Nations Water Declaration in Ontario <http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/Assets/COO%20long%20form%20declaration.pdf>  
Safe Water for First Nations [http://www.canadians.org/water/issues/First\\_Nations/index.html](http://www.canadians.org/water/issues/First_Nations/index.html)

## Mail your EMPTY GLASS FOR WATER to:

**Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa  
K1A 0A2**

(Sample Letter to send with your Glass)  
Prime Minister Harper,

Access to clean, safe water is essential to life. Yet, many of our First Nation communities can't go to a tap and get a glass of water.

The Chiefs of Ontario have declared that decision-making processes related to the use and care of waters is a right maintained by First Nations and was not handed over with the making of treaties. I encourage the government of Canada to immediately begin working with our leaders and the provinces to provide resources to high-risk communities to implement their plans to provide safe water.

This glass is to remind you that a person is on the other end, waiting to turn on their tap, pour a safe glass of water, and drink it without fear.

Thank you, (Name & Address)

