

Bill #6

The Water Conservation and Protection Act

WHEREAS more than one third of the Canadian population relies on groundwater, and less than 6% of groundwater is renewable;¹ and

WHEREAS in 2011, more than 120 First Nations communities were under a water health advisory;² and

WHEREAS “tar sands’ water allocations accounts for 65% of the water withdrawals from the Athabasca River every year. These water use requirements are resulting in lower water levels in freshwater aquifers, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands... Oil sands development is the largest user of groundwater in Alberta.”³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1** As of January 1, 2016 the Government of Canada shall create **HYDRO** (Helping Yonder the Development of Resource Operations) in order to manage the sale and development of all water resources in Canada.
 - (1) Within **HYDRO**, a sub-committee of non-partisan environmental scientists, engineers, and industry officials, **SPLASH** [Sustainable Protection of Legislated Aquatic Habitat], will be created with the purpose of establishing a set of regulations and boundaries for industrial water consumption and management in Canada.
 - (2) All companies with industrial operations within Canada will be expected to follow the regulations set out by **SPLASH** as of January 1st, 2021. Failure to comply will result in a three-strike penalty:
 - (a) A fine equal to or exceeding the company’s gross annual revenue, dependent upon the severity of the infraction.
 - (b) A fine equal to or exceeding three times the company’s gross annual revenue, dependent upon the severity of the infraction.
 - (c) A court order to cease and desist all production and manufacturing operations within Canadian borders.

- 2** **HYDRO** will oversee the sale of water to the United States of America on a state and municipal basis, at a price beginning at forty cents per ten gallons, dependent upon the per capita access to fresh water in the given region, with higher prices given to those with higher access and vice versa.
 - (1) Other nations that wish to purchase water from Canada may do so, with a rate dependent upon per capita access to fresh water.

¹ Chung, Emily. "Most Groundwater Is Effectively a Non-renewable Resource, Study Finds." CBC News. November 18, 2015. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/groundwater-study-1.3318137>.

² Stastna, Kazi. "Clean Running Water Still a Luxury on Many Native Reserves." CBC News. April 12, 2014. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/clean-running-water-still-a-luxury-on-many-native-reserves-1.1081705>.

³ "Tar Sands and Water." Sierra Club Canada Foundation. <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/tar-sands/publications/tar-sands-and-water>.

- 3 **HYDRO** will oversee the sale of water to companies involved in industrial production, manufacturing, agriculture, etc., with operations both within and outside of Canada.
 - (1) All operations must comply with the standards set out by **SPLASH**. Failure to comply will result in the aforementioned penalties.
 - (2) A tax beginning at 4% will be placed on all sales of resources that require large quantities of water, or otherwise utilize unsustainable water practices, as determined by **SPLASH**.
 - (a) Net revenue from this tax will be put towards projects to improve the environmental sustainability of resource extraction in Canada.

- 4 **HYDRO** will cease all extraction of water resources from treaty lands in Canada, without the express permission of band leaders.
 - (1) Any band that agrees to allow water extraction from their lands will be provided with funding in order to establish sustainable extraction and distribution infrastructure, with priority for employment in these operations given to local residents.
 - (a) Proper industry, safety, management, etc., training will be provided if necessary.
 - (2) Net revenue from the sale of water to both companies and nations will be immediately put towards establishing sustainable infrastructure to provide potable water to all homes on reserves.

- 5 The Government of Canada will halt all resource extraction operations within the oil sands by January 1st, 2021, as well as all fracking operations across the country.
 - (1) Priority for the tax revenue proposed in Clause 3 will be immediately purposed towards the restoration of areas suffering environmental damage as a result of oil sands operations.