

**Letter to President Judith Woodsworth, Sent on July 7th, on behalf of over 35
faculties and staff.**

July 7th, 2010

To: Concordia President Judith Woodsworth

Cc: *Michael Di Grappa, VP Services*

Dear President Woodsworth,

Bottled water is one of the most energy intensive, water intensive, waste producing products on the market. In the majority of circumstances it is completely unnecessary.

In the past year municipalities, schools and universities have stood up for Canada's public water services by phasing out the provision and sale of bottled water, while at the same time taking a principled stance against the commodification of a basic human and ecological right. At present there are 79 municipalities (from 8 provinces and 2 territories), 7 school boards, 7 universities and colleges and 1 province that have announced restrictions on bottled water. Additionally, a number of associations, such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), have encouraged their members to restrict bottled water. The movement towards free, accessible public water is growing nation-wide.

Concordia currently holds an exclusivity contract with Pepsico. This contract terminates in December of 2010. Re-negotiations are set to begin mid-June. Concordia has a unique opportunity to negotiate a new beverage contract that will ensure the removal of bottled water from all vending machines and beverage outlets on campus.

The bottled water industry has worked hard to undermine our faith in public water. The industry sells water – which should be a shared public resource – for huge profits. Producing and transporting bottled water consumes large amounts of fossil fuels, and plastic water bottles continue to end up by the millions in local landfills. The 2009 university-wide waste audit concluded that over 2 million water bottles were disposed of on Concordia's campus in 2008-2009; this equates to around 43 bottles per campus community member per year. Less than 10% of bottles are recycled. Recycling all of those bottles every year would cost Concordia almost \$16,000.

Concordia students, staff and faculty are not immune to the growing threats of water scarcity in Canada as twenty per cent of Canadian municipalities have faced shortages in recent years. Three prominent water bottling plants line the outskirts of Montreal (Pepsi-

Cola, St. Laurent; Coca-Cola, Lachine; and Coca-Cola, Anjou) all of which place stress on water resources.

Concordia University, despite being a leader in sustainability is still currently selling and promoting the use of bottled water on campus. Water is widely recognized as a human and ecological right, and Concordia University should act now to ensure that our campus supports the international movement for water security by taking on initiatives against bottled water.

The Concordia Student Union, Sustainable Concordia, and TAPthirst are just a few of the organizations at Concordia which actively support the ban on the sale and provision of bottled water. The Environmental Advisory Committee is also in full support and has outlined clear objectives for the upcoming beverage contract negotiation:

- No individually packaged bottled water will be sold through any contract on campus.
- The contract(s) will ensure health conscious, environmentally, and socially conscious products, in keeping with the University's Sustainability Mandate, as specified in the University's Strategic Plan, with 30 percent of all products supplied locally*.
- The contracts will be non-exclusive. The criteria for the contracts will not include exclusivity rights, therefore allowing for the opportunity of having alternatively supplied beverages on campus and multiple suppliers.
- Negotiation of the contracts will be clear, democratic and transparent as per Law C-65.1 (*Act Respecting Contracting by Public Bodies*)

This implies that:

- contracts will be open to bidding by multiple companies,
- criteria for prospective suppliers, in the form of RFP, will be public information.
- the selection process will be transparent, publicly available, and publicized.
- the selection process will be fair; no one company will be favoured over another.

We ask you to formally recognize these objectives and take tangible steps to create a bottled water free Concordia, to be in place following the completion of our current contract with Pepsico in December, 2010.

Thank you,

Rosemarie Schade, Principal, Loyola International College
Peter Stoett, Chair, Department of Political Science
Paul Shrivastava, Director, David O'Brien Center for Sustainable Enterprise
Noel Burke, Dean, School of Extended Learning
Sandra Betton, Chair, Department of Finance
David Newton, Assistant Professor, Department of Finance

Edward Wong, Lecturer, Department of Finance
Gregory Lypny, Professor, Department of Finance
Geneviève Rail, Principal, Simone de Beauvoir Institute
Raymond Paquin, Assistant Professor, Department of Management
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Eric Shragge, Principal, School of Community and Public Affairs
Daniel Salee, Professor, School of Community and Public Affairs
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Damon Matthews, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment
Antoine Bilodeau, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
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Eve M. Pankovitch, Internship Coordinator, Political Science and Geography, Planning and Environment
Mike Gasher, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism
Joanne Turnbull, Chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry on behalf of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
T.S. Rukmani, Chair, Department of Hindu Studies (Religion)
Calvin Kalman, Principal, Science College
Loren Lerner, Chair, Department of Art History
Catherine Moore, Professor, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment
Richard F. Schmid, Chair, Department of Education
Lisa Ostiguy, Chair, Applied Human Sciences
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Jay Mannadiar, Director, Department of Finance Co-op Program
Marguerite Mendell, Director, Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy
Pragasen Pillay, Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Submitted on behalf of these faculty members by,

Laura Beach
Co-Founder TAPthirst
Intern, Concordia Food Systems Project