



Canadian Federation of University Women
Fédération Canadienne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités

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Ambassador Guillermo E. Rishchynski
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Your Excellency Ambassador Rishchynski,

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) calls upon the Canadian mission to the United Nations (UN) to honour its legally-binding obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the Human Right to Water and Sanitation as embodied in resolutions A/Res/64/292 and A/HRC/15/L/14, the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and all other relevant international laws, treaties, covenants or declarations.

The amendments to the UNCSD Zero Draft text that seek to remove recognition of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation are a serious concern. CFUW ask that Canada's mission to the UN encourage the immediate withdrawal of these amendments.

CFUW further urges Canada to ensure that the negotiations for Rio+20 and the proposed Green Economy protect the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, and do not lead to violations of this right through the introduction of mechanisms designed to implement markets, property rights and trading regimes for water.

CFUW calls upon Canada to work with civil society to create the water 'Future We Want', which must include respect for water as a human right and public good.

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization of close to 10,000 women university graduates, students and Associate Members in 112 Clubs across Canada that works to improve the status of women and human rights, education, social justice, and peace. CFUW holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education committee of the Canadian Sub-Commission to UNESCO. CFUW is the largest of the 61 affiliates of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Sincerely,

Brenda Wallace

Brenda Wallace
National President, Canadian Federation of University Women

CC.

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment

Ms. Laverdière, Hélène, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic

Ms. Megan Leslie, NDP Environment Critic

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Liberal Foreign Affairs Critic

Dr. Kirsty Duncan, Liberal Environment Critic

Ms. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada