



SWAN Canada E-Bulletin No. 2 – April 2009

Update on SWAN Canada's Advocacy Activities

World Water Day 2009: Join the Call – Toilets for All!

SWAN Canada marked World Water Day 2009 (Sunday, March 22) with a well attended media event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Over 40 toilet seats bearing signatures from hundreds of Canadian from across the country were delivered to the nation's seat of power. With Amy Sandhu from the United Nations Association of Canada (UNA-Canada) acting as the Master of Ceremonies, guest speakers included Paul Dewar, MP and NDP's Foreign Affairs Critic, George Yap, International Program Director for WaterCan and SWAN Canada's Coordinator, Kate White, Executive Director for UNA-Canada, Robert Fox, Executive Director for Oxfam Canada, and Chris Dendys, Executive Director for Results Canada. Also in attendance were members from the local chapters of Oxfam Canada, Engineers without Borders, Results Canada and the colourfully attired Raging Grannies. Mr. Dewar was presented with one of the signed toilet seats which he promised to personally deliver to Prime Minister Steven Harper. Coalition members who contributed toilet seats included Oxfam Canada, WaterCan, Results Canada, Engineers without Borders, UNA-Canada, UNICEF Canada, Save the Children Canada and CPAR. An extensive collection of images of the media event can be viewed at www.swanCanada.org

SWAN Canada's *Join the Call, Toilets for All! National Toilet Seat Petition* was launched last year on World Toilet Day (November 19, 2008). For further information about the media event contact Bill Hynd at Oxfam Canada bill@oxfam.ca or Andrea Helfer at WaterCan ahelfer@watercan.com

SWAN Canada "Day on the Hill" event (March 24, 2009)

To help build Parliamentarians and government officials' awareness of SWAN Canada's goal of making water and sanitation a foreign aid priority, on Tuesday March 24, 2009, a delegation of coalition representatives spent a hectic day attending numerous meetings in the Ottawa-Gatineau region. The delegation comprised of officials from CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, Results Canada, UNICEF Canada and WaterCan. During the meetings, delegates underscored the importance and cost-effectiveness of investing in water and sanitation. The Day on the Hill event was supported by Global Public Affairs, Canada's premiere public policy and government relations firm, on a pro bono basis. For further information contact George Yap at info@swanCanada.org

News from Our Members

Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) will be holding its second World Water Summit in Birmingham, UK on June 19th, 2009. The event is held each year in conjunction with the Rotary International Convention. Scheduled guest speakers include Maude Barlow, UN Senior Advisor on Water, and Professor Richard Carter from Cranfield University. To register for the Summit visit www.wasrag.org or contact Ron Denham at info@wasrag.org

To learn about some of the contributions of **Engineers without Borders** overseas volunteers to the water and sanitation sector, watch the short video clip profiling EWB volunteer Nick Jimenez who has been living in Ghana for the past year. His team is working with over 200 communities to identify infrastructure needs, including water supply. To view the video visit www.ewb.ca

On March 27, 2009, the **United Nations Association in Canada's (UNA-Canada)** celebrated Canadian youth engagement with the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008 by organizing an interactive Sanitation Exhibit at the Kemptville Campus of Guelph University. The exhibit showcased the creative work and commitment of elementary school students from the Upper Canada District School Board. The event attracted over 500 students and included the participation by SWAN Canada members Ryan's Well Foundation and WaterCan, as well as UNA-Canada's Youth4Water Toronto group. For more information visit www.unac.org or contact Amy Sandhu at amy.sandhu@unac.org

UNICEF Canada's Tap Project is an innovative campaign aimed at building awareness of clean, accessible water as a global child health issue, while raising funds for UNICEF's water and sanitation programs. From March 22, World Water Day, to March 29, 2009, the Keg and other participating restaurants across Canada invited customers to add a suggested donation of \$1 to their bill for the tap water they would normally receive for free. To learn more visit www.unicef.ca or www.tapproject.ca

Ryan's Well Foundation marked World Water Day 2009 by celebrating its 500th water access point. Over 611,000 people now have access to clean water thanks to the support of Ryan's Well Foundation, partners and donors. For more information visit www.ryanswell.ca or contact Julie Truelove at julie@ryanswell.ca

We are pleased to announce **International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)** has recently joined the SWAN Canada coalition. IDRF is dedicated to empowering the disadvantaged people of the world through emergency relief and participatory development programs based on the Islamic principles of human dignity, self-reliance and social justice. For more information visit www.idrf.ca or contact Jespal Panesar at jpanesar@idrf.ca

SWAN Canada Members' Field Notes

In 2008/2009 **CPAR (Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief)** carried out a variety of WASH actions, addressing specific challenges experienced by vulnerable communities in each of its countries of operation. In Ethiopia, CPAR developed five safe and reliable water points for household consumption and use in agriculture. In Malawi, CPAR continued its partnership with UNICEF to develop deep water wells for schools in rural Nkhata Bay, with integrated sanitation works and hygiene programming. In Tanzania, CPAR completed implementation of its rainwater harvesting program at seven new primary schools, in partnership with the Ryan's Well Foundation. And in Uganda, CPAR responded to the emergency needs of flood-affected communities in Pader District to access emergency water treatment and re-establish latrines that collapsed during heavy rains. For more information visit www.cpar.ca or contact Todd Carmichael at tcarmichael@cpar.ca

SOS Children's Villages Canada's work in Nairobi includes treating its waste water in an ecologically sound manner for more than a decade, with the support of the city council. Every six months, water in the septic tank is diluted with disinfectants to kill harmful bacteria. *Water Cabbage*, a plant grown on water's surface, is a purifying plant that cleans the water and repels mosquitoes – reducing exposure to malaria and water-borne diseases. Finally, the water is recycled to irrigate crops grown by the village. In 2009 the program has expanded, now using 'grey water' to support pond life, indigenous seedlings, and a few farm animals. For more information visit www.soschildrensvillages.ca or contact Kelsey Lemon at k.lemon@soschildrensvillage.ca

Building on the success of its *Clean Water for Schools* pilot program (2006-2008) **WaterCan** recently launched *Clean Water for Schools – Phase II*. Over the next 18 months WaterCan will be working with local partner organizations to provide clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education services to over 43,000 students in 57 schools across East Africa. For more information visit www.watercan.com or contact Leslie Moreland at lmoreland@watercan.com.

Spotlight on...AMREF Canada

From urban slums to nomadic communities, AMREF has over 50 years of experience in developing economically viable and sustainable solutions to the everyday challenges of safe water and sanitary living conditions in East and Southern Africa. AMREF works to empower communities to build and maintain clean water systems appropriate for their local conditions while educating people on how clean water and good hygiene breaks the cycle of disease. AMREF has also pioneered a maintenance scheme to ensure water pumps and wells installed by governments and aid agencies are maintained in good condition under local administration and ownership. This timely innovation addresses the chronic breakdown of water pumps across the continent.

PHASE - Personal Hygiene & Sanitation Education

AMREF has proven that basic education on sanitation saves lives. The PHASE project – introduced to Kenya in partnership with GlaxoSmithKlein – is a simple hand-washing program for schools. By providing guidance on the importance of hand-washing and other hygiene practices, PHASE has reduced diarrhoea-related disease associated with poor hygiene, and has improved children's overall health and well-being. In the Soroti district of northern Uganda, the project has had a significant impact.

- 98% of schools in Soroti have been visited by PHASE workers who provide immunizations and health education.
- 150 schools in the district now have functioning hand-washing facilities, previously they had none.
- Three times as many students are now regularly washing their hands after using the washroom or before eating.

In Kenya, the Ministry of Education has incorporated PHASE into the national school curriculum. The PHASE project is already been replicated in Zambia, Nicaragua, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Tajikistan, all with success.

For more information visit www.amrefcanada.org or contact Melanie Sharpe at msharpe@amrefcanada.org

Upcoming Conferences and Events

The **Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)** has announced its 2009 North American Workshop training schedule for its Water Quality Testing and Low Cost Sanitation workshops. Locations include Calgary, AB, Hamilton, ON, and Troy (Michigan). To register for a workshop or review course outlines visit www.cawst.org or contact CAWST at cawst@cawst.org

The 34th **WEDC International Conference** will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 18-22 May 2009. The annual event is a global platform for practitioners, decision-makers, academics and researchers who lead water and sanitation innovation in low-income countries. To learn more visit www.wedconference.co.uk

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) hosts **World Water Week**, the leading annual global meeting place for the planet's water issues. This year's edition has the theme *Responding to Global Change: Accessing Water for the Common Good* and will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, August 16-22, 2009. To learn more visit: www.worldwaterweek.org

About SWAN Canada

Sanitation and Water Action Network Canada (SWAN Canada) is a coalition of Canadian non-governmental organizations united in the belief that improving global access to safe, affordable, and sustainable water supply and sanitation services must be a foreign aid priority for the Government of Canada. To learn more about the work of the coalition and member organizations visit www.swancanada.org

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