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**SWAN Canada E-Bulletin No. 1 – January 2009 (Inaugural Edition)**  
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**Update on SWAN Canada's Advocacy Activities**

SWAN Canada marked World Toilet Day 2008 (Nov. 19) with the unveiling of two provocative posters to help highlight to the global water and sanitation crisis to Canadians. Both posters, *Millions of women have to do it with an audience*, and *Dirty water kills*, were sent to all federal MPs and Senators along with a joint letter signed by the CEOs of member organizations. Both the letter and posters can be viewed at [www.swanacanda.org](http://www.swanacanda.org)

The coalition also used the occasion of World Toilet Day 2008 to launch the *Join the Call, Toilets for All! National Toilet Seat Petition*. Plans are under way to organize a media event to officially hand over the signed toilet seats to the Canadian government as a means of marking World Water Day 2009. For more information contact Bill Hynd at Oxfam Canada [bill@oxfam.ca](mailto:bill@oxfam.ca) or Andrea Helfer at WaterCan [ahelfer@watercan.com](mailto:ahelfer@watercan.com)

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**News from Our Members**

Each year, the **Engineers Without Borders** National Conference gathers the strongest student leaders from Canada's engineering schools along with engaged professional engineers for this premier event. The *8th Annual EWB National Conference* will draw more than 600 passionate students and professionals to the Greater Toronto Area from January 21 – 24, 2009. The conference will include several sessions exploring water and sanitation issues in the developing world. For more information visit [www.ewb.ca](http://www.ewb.ca) or contact Brett Stevenson at [brettstevenson@ewb.ca](mailto:brettstevenson@ewb.ca)

**Results Canada's** recent monthly actions have included efforts aimed at promoting sanitation as a priority investment area for the Canadian government. The September 2008 (*Sanitation in schools – giving the world's children a safe private place*) and December 2008 (*The greatest gift – Canada can be a global leader on child survival*) action sheets make the point that investing in sanitation is one of the most cost-effective health interventions in the world and that Canada should invest in the new UN Global Sanitation Fund. For more information visit [www.results-resultats.ca](http://www.results-resultats.ca) or contact Chris Dendys at [chris@results-resultats.ca](mailto:chris@results-resultats.ca)

**Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)**, in conjunction with Amnesty International's Toronto Chapter will be co-sponsoring a one-day conference entitled *Human Water Rights: Make it our business* at the University of Toronto on Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Guest speakers will include Maude Barlow, UN Senior Advisor on Water, and Ron Denham, Chair of WASRAG. Admission is free and lunch is included. For more information visit [www.aito.ca](http://www.aito.ca) or contact Nancy Gilbert at [nancy@thruyou.com](mailto:nancy@thruyou.com)

**United Nations Association in Canada's (UNA-Canada)** *The Ripple Effect: Water and Sanitation* programmes for 2009 continues to engage Canadians and foster a generation of young leaders equipped with skills to address issues of water scarcity, conservation, sanitation and to promote water as an international human right. The Toronto-based Youth Advisory Committee, *Youth4Water*, will continue to engage their peers and communities in water and sanitation issues and will release a Youth Statement in March 2009, marking World Water Day. The Calgary-based pilot project will conduct a needs assessment amongst young Albertans to gauge their perceptions on local and international water and sanitation issues. *Clean Talk*, another project under The Ripple Effect programme, builds critical thinking skills amongst Canadian youth to create sustainable and solution-based approaches to sanitation issues through a variety of educational tools and awareness-building resources. These tools and resources will be available at the UNA-Canada Sanitation Exhibit planned for March 27, 2009 at the Kemptville Campus of Guelph University. For more information visit [www.unac.org](http://www.unac.org) or contact Amy Sandhu at [amy.sandhu@unac.org](mailto:amy.sandhu@unac.org)

To help mark World Toilet Day 2008 (Nov. 19) **WaterCan**, announced the winner of its *End Poverty at the Source* video contest. 20-year old William Barber of Toronto beat out fierce competition with his innovative entry entitled *H2slow*. The contest, launched on World Water Day 2008, attracted both amateur and professional submission from across Canada. Mr. Barber will travel to Kenya in January 2009 to visit urban and rural water and sanitation projects. The winning video and other submitted entries can be viewed on WaterCan's YouTube Channel [www.youtube.com/user/WaterCanContest](http://www.youtube.com/user/WaterCanContest). For further information visit [www.watercan.com](http://www.watercan.com) or contact Andrea Helfer at [ahelfer@watercan.com](mailto:ahelfer@watercan.com)

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## SWAN Canada Members' Field Notes

**Emmanuel International Canada's** main contribution to the water & sanitation sector is taking place in Sudan and Malawi. In Sudan we are in the midst of a comprehensive two year project that among other activities will build 24 shallow wells, 8 subsurface dams, 12 water yards, 30 rainwater catchment tanks and 300 household latrines, while training and mobilizing 30 village development committees as well as 8 community health workers. In Malawi we are in the beginning stages of a 2 year project that will build or rehabilitate 80 shallow wells and provide health & sanitation training to over 6,000 Malawians. For more information visit [www.eicanada.org](http://www.eicanada.org) or contact Chris Lewis at [chris@eicanada.org](mailto:chris@eicanada.org)

**UNICEF Canada** works in more than 90 countries around the world to improve water supplies and sanitation facilities in schools and communities, and to promote safe hygiene practices. In emergencies UNICEF provides urgent relief to communities and countries threatened by disrupted water supplies and disease. UNICEF Canada currently supports water, sanitation and hygiene projects in Haiti, Liberia, Malawi and Myanmar; and is supporting advocacy work to promote cost-effective borehole drilling methods, including manual drilling, in order to decrease costs, increase the number of wells being built to help meet the UN Millennium Development Goals and help expedite emergency responses. For more information visit [www.unicef.ca](http://www.unicef.ca) or contact Loyal Sarrouh at [lsarrouh@unicef.ca](mailto:lsarrouh@unicef.ca)

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### Spotlight on...CARE Canada

**Overview:** As part of its long-term development portfolio, CARE Canada is currently implementing significant water and sanitation projects in Honduras, Nicaragua, Indonesia, and Zambia. In addition, water supply and sanitation are important components of our emergency response work, for example in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Finally, projects which focus primarily on other needs may also include water/sanitation components. An example is our support to the community school movement in Zambia which includes provision of water supply and sanitation facilities in community schools in up to 15 districts.

**Long-term development:** CARE has been active in the water and sanitation sector for decades. In Honduras and Nicaragua for example, our water and sanitation projects began in the 1980's. Our approach is an integrated one, involving: community mobilization, capacity building and management; health and hygiene awareness; village-level operation and maintenance; watershed management / environmental protection; and, governance and strengthening of municipal water departments or water boards.

**Sustainable Water and Sanitation Project (Proyecto de agua y saneamiento sostenible, PASOS),** Honduras, 20,000 beneficiaries (current phase)

Since 1996 CARE has been responsible for implementing the project PASOS in the North coast of Honduras in the Departments of Atlantida, Colon, and Yoro. The project is currently in its third phase of implementation (PASOS III). The goal of the project is the sustainable improvement in health and quality of life of the people in the North coast of Honduras. PASOS I&II provided sustainable potable water and sanitation services to 82 rural communities. An evaluation commissioned by CARE in 2004 concluded that more than 90% of the water systems built by CARE were functioning and in excellent condition more than 5 years after completing their construction.

The construction and rehabilitation of 56 water systems has improved the health of more than 56,000 inhabitants in 82 rural communities reducing waterborne diseases by 9% and the protection of 11,154 hectares of forested areas for support water sources. It's important to note that the project has a comprehensive community health and education component, which in phases I&II produced a measurable improvement among community residents in the level of knowledge and the application of practices related to personal and domestic hygiene, control of excreta and garbage.

One of the key aspects of PASOS III is the promotion of various new approaches at the local level such as household metering, payments for environmental services, new technologies e.g. ferrous cement and pre-filters, credit through revolving funds and various innovative training programs including the women's plumber program. The women's plumber program has been useful in providing not only technical training to more than 50 women but also greater self-confidence and recognition within their communities.

For more information visit [www.care.ca](http://www.care.ca) or Richard Paterson at [richardp@care.ca](mailto:richardp@care.ca)

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### Upcoming Conferences and Events

The World Water Forum, held every three years, aims at putting water firmly on the international agenda. A stepping stone towards global collaboration on water problems, the Forum offers the water community and policy-and-decision-makers from all over the world the unique opportunity to come together to create links, debate and attempts to find solutions to achieve water security. The **5th World Water Forum** will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 16-22 March, 2009. To learn more visit [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)

The **34<sup>th</sup> 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.wedcconference.co.uk](http://www.wedcconference.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](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)

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**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](http://www.swancanada.org)

SWAN Canada E-Bulletin Editor: George Yap Coordinator for SWAN Canada, mail [info@swancanada.org](mailto:info@swancanada.org)

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