

# **CUPE** COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Municipalities across Canada raise concerns about CETA**

**Ottawa, October 17, 2011** – As Canadians learn about the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), communities across Canada are raising concerns. Several have passed resolutions demanding that provincial and territorial governments negotiate a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from CETA.

“CETA has far-reaching implications for municipalities,” said CUPE National President Paul Moist. “As well as opening the door for the privatization of water, CETA threatens local procurement and democracy by putting corporate rights above public rights.”

The next, and possibly final, set of negotiations is being held in Ottawa this week.

CUPE has produced a thirty-second video that draws attention to the fact that CETA is the first trade agreement that puts delivery of public water on the table. <http://cupe.ca/ceta/canadas-secret-trade-deal>  
CETA could force municipalities to privatize water services to the lowest bidder.

The following is a partial list of communities that have raised concerns or passed resolutions against CETA:

Alnwick/Haldimand, Ontario	Lashburn, Saskatchewan
Asphodel-Norwood, Ontario	Lillooet, British Columbia
Brantford, Ontario	Logan Lake, British Columbia
Brockville, Ontario	London, Ontario
Burnaby, British Columbia	Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
Chilliwack School District, British Columbia	New Tecumseh, Ontario
District of Kent, British Columbia	North Vancouver, British Columbia
Drayton Valley, Alberta	Quinte West, Ontario
Esterhazy, Saskatchewan	Trail, British Columbia
Grand Forks, British Columbia	Trent Hills, Ontario
Hamilton, Ontario	Windsor-Essex, Ontario

The Union of B.C. Municipalities passed a resolution at this year’s convention from the District of Kent “to remove water services from any commitments under the proposed Canada-EU CETA.” The motion, which states “the inclusion of water services in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) would undermine the public control and accountability of these vital assets” also calls on the FCM (the Federal Council of Municipalities) to take this same stance.

-30-

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