



Thunder Bay Chapter Founding Meeting Presentation

November 2012

The life of an activist is a good life because you get up in the morning caring about more than just yourself or how to make money. A life of activism gives hope, which is a moral imperative in this work and in this world. Our activism gives us energy and it gives us direction. You meet the best people, you help transform ideas and systems and you commit to leaving the earth in at least as whole a condition as you inherited it.

-Maude Barlow

What is the Council of Canadians?



- Founded in 1985,
- Canada's largest citizens' organization
- Promoting progressive policies on trade, water, energy, health care
- No money from corporations or governments,
- Strength and credibility from our chapters



The Guiding Values and Principles

- Give thoughtful consideration to the best interests of Canadians and their communities.
- Everyone involved in our work can participate in defining our purpose, direction and culture.
- Aim for open and honest discussion about important issues.
- Maintain dignity, integrity and respect for one another.



Current Campaigns

Trade: CETA; Canada-China FIPPA

Energy: No Pipelines No Tankers;
Fracking

Health Care: 2014 Health Accord

Water: Great Lakes; The Right to
Water

Election Fraud

Recent Successes in Ontario

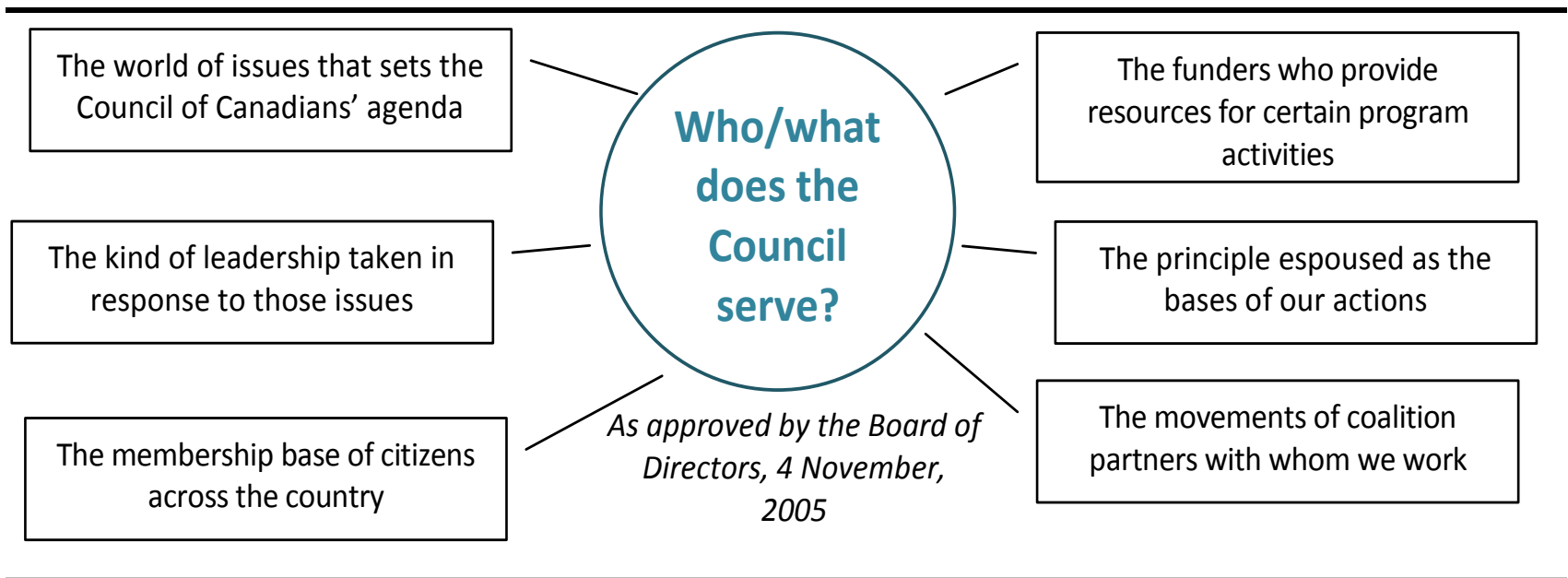


- Megaquarry stopped
- CETA Municipal Resolutions
- Wolf Lake
- Blue Communities
- Site 41
- Fluoride - Orillia
- Public Health Care – Centric Health

The Purpose, Structure, & Governance of the Council



The Purpose, Structure, and Governance of the Council of Canadians



Statement of Purpose



The Council of Canadians is committed to safeguarding social programs, promoting economic and social justice, renewing democracy, promoting alternatives to corporate-style free trade and globalization, and preserving our environment. We demand that governments create policies in the interests of their country's people—not in the interests of big businesses..



Chapters



Importance of Chapters



- Chapters are instrumental in securing key wins
- Organize hundreds of public events and appear almost daily in local and regional media.
- Logistical support for regional tours
- Represent the Council in their community
- Municipal level is where we have most influence

Ontario Chapters



Brockville

Hamilton

Niagara South

Ottawa

Peterborough

Toronto

York University

Guelph

London

Northumberland

Region of Peel

Simcoe County

Windsor

Thunder Bay

Ontario Chapter Activities



Northumberland Chapter made 7 presentations to nearby municipalities which resulted in four CETA resolutions- more than any other in the country

The Guelph Chapter fought back against Nestle



The Windsor Chapter will participate in the National Lobby Day for Healthcare



Premiers are meeting in Halifax to discuss critical funding for health care. **Stephen Harper was invited, but won't be coming.**

WHERE'S HARPER ON HEALTH CARE?



Toronto's Annual Water Forum



Shared Water, Shared Legacy
Sat, March 24, 2012
10am - 4pm

Join the Council of Canadian Territories Chapter at our annual, award-winning water forum

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Mississauga Megaproject
- One Great Lakes Catchment
- EnFlorescence (R)
- Oak Ridge Mine
- Toronto City Water
- CCTA & Water Privatization
- Water as a Human Right

FREE entry • Lunch provided • \$100 max

Central West End Community Hall
111 Dundas Street West at College Street at downtown

RSVP (space is limited) to www.cctcanada.com or sign-up on Facebook!

Council of Canadian Territories
www.cctcanada.com
www.cctcanada.org

Chapters Initiate Campaigns



- Brockville takes on the neo-liberal agenda with newspaper and google ads
- Toronto chapter campaigning on the \$1 Billion sewage treatment project
- Peterborough leading the fight against local nuclear contamination issues
- Guelph chapter is the municipal watchdog
- Simcoe and Windsor helped win Fluoride votes

London Chapter is stopCETA



Everyone is welcome



No one shall be refused membership or be otherwise subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, citizenship, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or ability.



Nuthin' but a
bunch of
NDPers,
Liberals,
Communists,
Anarchists...



- The Council of Canadians is non-partisan.
- We want the broadest possible membership with the goal of being reflective of today's society and culture.

Definition of a Chapter:



- At least five members in good standing who work together in a democratic manner to participate in our campaign initiatives, local coalition building, and social justice politics.
- Non-members can join the chapter too.
- Work on campaigns defined by the Board and coordinated by the organization on a national level and also respond to **local issues** in their communities.

Important Requirements



- Keep the regional offices informed of the chapter's activities on a regular basis.
- Reflect the values and the objectives of the national campaign strategy.
- Encourage participation in our campaigns through regular public meetings, events, rallies, demonstrations, etc.

Chapters must:



- Have a reliable contact person with an e-mail address, who will share information received with the rest of the chapter.
- Have a chapter bank/credit union account with a treasurer, and two cheque signers.
- Produce a simple annual activity report.

CoC funds for your chapter



- \$350 to get started once all administrative forms are completed and the bank account has been established.
- Additional \$400 per year for pre-approved expenses.
- You can always ask for more!!!



Your chapter can do all manner of fundraising activities from bake sales to movie nights to raffles.

BUT

No money from government, foundations, political parties, corporations, or small businesses can be solicited or accepted for use by the chapter.

Regional Organizing Team



- Responsible for implementing strategy in the region.
- Promote activism among chapters.
- Outreach, coalition building.
- Maintain relationships with all contacts and develop appropriate relationships with media, politicians, bureaucrats etc.

Regional Meetings



- Bring together Council of Canadians chapter activists for networking/skill sharing.
- Space for chapters to share their ideas for strategies and actions on our campaigns.
- Two members chosen by the chapter as a whole from each chapter attend the regional meeting.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)



- Public forums, panel discussions, workshops, Saskatoon-Oct 2013.
- Delegates from all chapters are encouraged to attend and participate.
- Members in attendance elect the Board of Directors, vote on resolutions .

Thank You!

