

*Quality of Water*

communities and thousands of people in Canada—are drinking contaminated water. It is perhaps the single cause of a great deal of sickness, especially with children in many of our rural communities throughout Canada. In fact, if one were to examine the rationale used by municipalities in Canada seeking financial assistance for water systems from the provincial Governments and provincial authorities, one would discover that the chief reason listed is contaminated water. In other words, a municipality today, or water authority depending on which province you are in, would seek financial assistance from the provincial administration, because it is handled through the provincial Governments, for funding or permission to borrow based on the fact that the water they are drinking is contaminated.

You can see this throughout Canada, especially in the rural areas. Unfortunately the smaller the community, the greater the difficulty it has in obtaining funding for an adequate water supply. The reason is that municipal financing in Canada is based on the principle of loans. In other words, a municipality either gets the authority to borrow, a guarantee to borrow or borrows from provincial administrations. Therefore, when you have a small community, depending on the province, and certainly all provinces in Canada are alike, there is no funding in the form of grants to put in a water system. There is no mechanism in place today in Canada to provide grant money, not loan money, to put in a water system. There is no provincial administration in Canada where you can get money to construct a water system and not have to pay back that money. If you have to pay it back, then you must have the guarantee of the provincial Government or you do not get it through the banks.

That stands to reason, and that is why a tragic error was made about five years ago by the Government of Canada when it classified all of its works programs in Canada as training programs. You cannot get money any more to build a water system in Canada through the Department of Employment. The current works programs in Canada that the Government brags about every day were changed when the Government came to power. Therefore, you cannot get money any more to put in a

water system in Canada to alleviate the problem of children and parents drinking contaminated water.

How many times can you train somebody to put down a pipe? How many times can you train somebody to dig a ditch with a pick and shovel? So the Government of Canada says: "All works programs in Canada are training programs, and if you cannot train somebody for an occupation, you cannot have the money." Today there are communities with contaminated water in their water systems and they cannot solve that problem because the Government of Canada has changed the rules. It has said that unless you are training a worker for employment that he can have for the rest of his days, then you cannot get any money.

Just imagine what a foul act that was. What an absolutely outrageous act by the Government of Canada—hundreds of communities in Canada today with pipes under the water leading from a pond or a lake. There has been \$200,000, \$300,000, \$400,000 spent on a pipe under the ground and they cannot continue the construction. Why? Because the Government of Canada changed the rules midstream and said: "You cannot have money any more unless you are training everybody for a job that they can have in the future and a job that is needed in your area."

The local authority says: "Well, I want to put in a section of water line." The Government says: "No, no, you have got to prove that that ditch digger is being trained to dig a ditch so that he will have a job in the future."

That is what the criteria is for every works program in Canada today. For every job creation program funded by the federal Government today in Canada, the only criteria is that you must be training somebody for a job that is needed in that area and that you are going to give him training so that he is going to be able to work after that job is over. That is all job creation projects in Canada today, including the Job Development Program, the Job Strategy Program and Section 25 which is employment under the Unemployment Insurance Act. So all jobs in Canada funded by this Tory Government are only for training. They say: "To heck with what it does. Who cares", says the Government of Canada, "if people are drinking contaminated water? Who cares if