

## **Bringing more attention to Indigenous communities that don't have clean drinking water**

Written by Julianna Rogers and Mrs. Lee

We have to bring more attention to indigenous communities that don't have access to clean drinking water. There are many water advisories in this country which put our fellow Canadians at risk. Did you know that there are 90 deaths a year due to water pollution? Are you aware of the reasons for the water advisories? If you want to learn more about this topic, keep reading!

To begin with, we **HAVE** to bring more attention to the water crisis in indigenous communities as there are **29** long term drinking water advisories across Canada and these happen to be where first nations people live. Long term means that the water has been unsafe for more than 1 year. Some of these advisories have been in place for over **25** years! Imagine turning on a faucet in your home to fill a glass of water, to shower or cook with only to see brown liquid or realize that it is literally full of toxins.

Another reason why we **MUST** bring notice to this issue is because a lack of water can cause significant harm to the human body. When people aren't able to consume healthy water some of the negative effects are; stomach illness, dehydration, cancer, birth defects, skin irritation and even death. These effects become a possibility after just three days when there is no access to clean water. Many indigenous communities have had years and years of unsafe water in their homes.

To add, we have to **FOCUS** on helping indigenous communities improve the quality of their water as it is not only harmful to them but also whole ecosystems. The water is infected with uranium, E coli, parasites, bacteria and mercury, as well as high levels of iron and manganese. Toxins leak into water sources from factories, nuclear plants, and companies which contaminates the soil and seeps into creeks, rivers and lakes. This harms the plants and animals in surrounding habitats. Then if you think about it, this poisons food sources. One indigenous community in Ontario that thought they had their water issue fixed. The government inserted a well which gave them access to clean water. After just a few months the water was contaminated once again from a local manufacturing facility.

To summarize, we must bring more attention to indigenous communities that don't have access to clean drinking water because there are many people who live under water advisories, which puts hundreds of thousands of lives at risk.

## Hey Montgomery Village, do you feel inspired to take ACTION? Together we can show our support for our Indigenous Friends!

- **Who:** Mrs. Lee's grade 5-6 class
- **What:** Selling orange beaded bracelets that we've made for \$2 each and raffle tickets for gift cards from local businesses. Each raffle ticket is 25 cents, or 6 can be purchased for \$1
- **Where and When:** Students will have an opportunity to purchase tickets in the front foyer of MVPS from Monday June 13th to Thursday June 16th of next week during both nutrition breaks.

All of the money raised will go towards the [WATER FIRST](#) charity.

*"Our work helps address water challenges in Indigenous communities in Canada through education, training and meaningful collaboration. It is just one part of a solution to the water crisis facing many Indigenous communities."*

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous contributions to our initiative;













- John Lockyear at **Orangeville Dairy Queen** who donated three gift certificates for ice cream cakes
- Steve Kallay from **Davenports Auto Parts** who donated a \$50 gift card along with 5 sleeves of golf balls
- Dan Self at **Booster Juice** who donated 4 smoothie gift cards
- Rick and Michelle from **The Bluebird Cafe and Grill** who donated a \$40 gift card
- Chris Lee from **Royal Chevrolet Cadillac** for a \$25 Ultimate Dining gift card
- **The Bulk Barn** for their donation of a pinata full of candy
- Alyssa Smyth **16 Homemade Bath Bombs!**

We hope to see students all around our school wearing one of these amazing bracelets or a smile on someone's face when they win a gift card.

Thank you for helping us support our indigenous friends.

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**If you or your child would like to participate in the raffle draws, below are some digital tickets to print and complete at home. A paper copy will be sent home with your child this week as well. Please be sure to fill in your name or your child's, the classroom teacher and your phone number where we can contact you with congratulations if you win.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RAFFLE TICKET \$0.25</b></p> <p>Name: _____  Teacher: _____  Phone Number: _____  Thank you for your contribution to the  <b>WATER FIRST</b> organization </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RAFFLE TICKET \$0.25</b></p> <p>Name: _____  Teacher: _____  Phone Number: _____  Thank you for your contribution to the  <b>WATER FIRST</b> organization </p>
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