

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour strives to make SFL events commercially-bottled water free.

The SFL encourages its affiliates to promote the use of public drinking water.

The SFL will provide affiliates with information pertaining to bottled water – pamphlets, briefs, etc.

Here are some facts:

- Bottled water wastes resources and impacts our environment. The plastic uses more than 47 million gallons of oil per year to produce. The use of such massive amounts of fossil fuels to manufacture and transport bottled water contributes to climate change. Huge amounts of water are also required in the manufacture of water bottles. It takes three to five litres of water to produce every one litre plastic bottle.
- Landfills dealing with a waste management crisis cannot support the amount of bottled water garbage – up to 1.5 million tons of waste each year. Up to 80% of plastic water bottles are not recycled.
- Bottled water leads to water shortages. Public water systems are bottled water’s biggest competitors; these companies use their political influence and economic profits to take water from communities.
- Bottled water is not safer. Despite advertising to the contrary, the bottled water industry is not as carefully regulated as municipal water which is tested continuously to ensure there are no bacteria or contaminants. Bottled water operations are run by private, for-profit unregulated companies.
- The commoditization of water has resulted in corporations making a profit from the water supplies that taxpayers already support. In 2007, world-wide bottled water sales were worth between \$50 and \$100 billion, and growing by about 7 per cent each year. You spend about 5¢ per ounce on bottled water, while the public water from your tap costs about 1¢ per gallon. Bottled water is twice as expensive as gasoline.
- We should remember, too, that municipal water, in many Saskatchewan communities is proudly supplied by union members.

*Adopted by SFL Executive Council
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