

Bottled Water Facts

Health and Environmental Perspective

According to independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies, toxic chemicals such as arsenic, mercury and bromides have all been found in bottled water samples.

The bottled water industry suggests that their product is more pure and healthy than tap water, when municipalities test their water more stringently than bottling plants (Natural Resources Defense Council, NRDC).

Plastic bottles release toxic chemicals and contaminants into the air and water. They contribute to environmental degradation when they are manufactured and again when they are burned or buried.

Bottled water requires oil based transportation and contributes to global warming while tap water is more energy efficient in its delivery.

According to an Environment and Plastics Industry Council (EPIC) study, in 2002, Ontario had a 35% recycling rate for plastic beverage bottles, one of the lowest rates in the country. As a result, over 33,000 tonnes of plastic was burned or buried that year alone, releasing toxins into the ground and atmosphere.

Ontario, Manitoba, and Quebec are responsible for about 63% of the plastic beverage bottles generated in Canada (non-soft drinks), where deposit return programs do not exist (EPIC).

Corporate - Public Perspective

Beverage exclusivity contracts between companies and schools or municipalities are typically negotiated in secret with little meaningful debate, thus limiting the opportunity for conscious consumer choices to support local businesses and public water supplies.

Bottled water is 240 - 10,000 times more expensive than water from the tap, even though more than 25% of the water originates from the municipal tap system.

Commercial bottlers pay little or nothing in fees to access water, making it one of the most unregulated resources in Canada.

The bottled water market erodes confidence in our public water systems, paving the way for higher prices and corporate control of water resources.

Accessing bottled water is no more convenient than reaching a tap to fill a reusable bottle.