



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR  
**Development  
and Peace**

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A PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



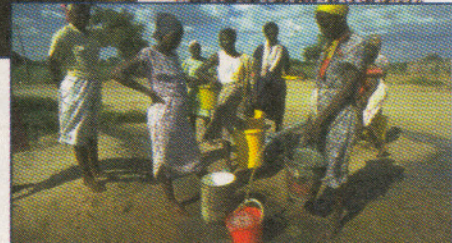
## Water:

**A sacred gift and a basic human right**

**Imagine having your taps turned off by a private for-profit water company because you are not able to pay skyrocketing water bills. This is the situation increasingly faced by the poor of the Global South.**

In the fall of 2003 DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE launched its new three-year education and action program "Water: Life before Profits". Water, the basis for life on earth, has for many years been under threat from pollution, overuse and waste. Now people's access to fresh water is subject to a new stress – the privatization of public water systems.

The theme of water resonates among DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE members. They have been inviting Canadians to learn about this most precious of natural resources and commit to ensuring that water remains a public trust. Many tens of thousands have signed our water declaration affirming that the sacred gift of water is a basic human right whose value to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value. This spring DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE will ask the Canadian government to support a United Nations resolution to recognize water as a human right. Until now Canada has refused to make this stand. We hope to change that.



Therese Wolf / Development and Peace