

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland

Commitment to Blue Communities

15 May 2018

Whereas, members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy minister in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, in Ontario and in Peru; and

Whereas, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has an abundance of fresh water and is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and has an abundance of fresh water and;

Whereas, the country of Peru which is bordered by the Pacific Ocean has ample water much of which is not potable; and

Whereas water is gift held in common by all of us, the human and other than human; and

Whereas water is a common good that is shared by everyone and is the responsibility of all; and

Whereas water is essential for all of life and must be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment; and

Whereas, there is increasing pressure by business and other entities to put water up for sale and to privatize water services; and

Whereas many Canadians, many Peruanos and Peruanas, especially many Indigenous Peoples are deprived of clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; and

Whereas each responsible and rational person has the obligation to protect, to preserve and to use wisely this water as a commons and as a public trust; and

Whereas, the adoption of a water commons framework to address pollution, degradation, depletion and privatization at the community level is crucial in the global struggle to preserve water and ensure fair access to all;

Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland and Labrador and Peru, do hereby request to be designated a Blue Community in the context of the Blue Communities Project. We recognize water and sanitation as human rights.

Be it further resolved that the Sisters of Mercy commit themselves to

- Monitor personal use of water
- Use only the amount of water needed
- Refrain from using bottled water where potable water is available
- Refrain from using plastic containers and other plastics
- Refrain from adding any chemicals or harmful or polluting items into the water system
- Advocate for the protection of waters and watersheds with governing bodies on the municipal, provincial, national and international level for the development of plans of action, establishment of monitoring and accountability mechanisms and ensuring affordable services for all
- Advocate for the protection of waters and watersheds with the many faith groups with whom we are engaged
- Join and/or support individuals and groups who advocate for safe, clean water and sanitation and who resist the corporate takeover of water
- Include references to care for water in all presentations we make and assemblies or conferences we attend
- Ensure good maintenance of taps and other domestic water lines in our facilities
- Monitor and limit how much plastic goods we purchase and use
- Write letters and sign petitions related to the protection and preservation of water
- Continue to educate ourselves in these matters
- Work closely with Mercy International Association and our NGO at the United Nations to effect change at the global level

We make this commitment for the good of all in keeping with the integrity of all creation and in a spirit of humility and gratitude for water and the many gifts lavished on us by the Creator of all.



Signed: _____ Date: _____

Elizabeth Davis, RSM
Congregational Leader