

Water: World's #1 Resource

- estimated that 1.2 billion people don't have clean water
 - this will double by 2025
- water in the developing world is used for mainly for agriculture, not for people
 - many developing countries have a dry season, and this leads to massive shortages
- aid programs and water subsidies often go to the rich, not the poor who need it but can't afford it

- to make matters worse, it is estimated that 80% of diseases are caused by contaminated drinking water
 - cholera, leprosy, typhoid, etc.

How Do We Help? – Solutions

- most parts of the world do not help as much as they could
- more money is spent on weapons than on any sort of aid programs:
 - 1998, US spent \$780 billion on defense
 - for \$6 billion, everyone could have a basic education
 - for \$9 billion, everyone could have sanitized and safe water
 - for \$12 billion, women could have safe reproductive health
- what do people truly care about?

Canada's Role

- Canada is a forerunner for international aid
- we give millions every year to help others
 - about 30% of this aid is **tied aid**
 - means that this money comes with conditions
 - we expect something in return (goods, services, resources, etc.)
- aid programs can come from Canada's CIDA (CDN International Development Agency)
 - iodine programs, saline programs, sexual health programs, etc.
- aid also comes from NGOs (Non-Gov't Organizations)
 - Red Cross, Rotary International, etc.

- how are things now?
- we dropped to an all-time 30 year low for donating and helping international aid over the last couple years
 - less than 0.27% of our GDP

- Canada could help and really make a difference, but we don't do as much as we could