



## NEWS RELEASE

News – Local/ National  
March 16, 2010

### **WaterCan Launches *Water for Life: An African Photo Exhibit***

**Who:** The Honourable Peter Milliken, M.P., Speaker of the House of Commons and Margaret Trudeau, Honourary President of WaterCan

**What:** Opening reception of *Water for Life: An African Photo Exhibit*

**When:** 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, 2010

**Where:** Room 216-N, Centre Block, Parliament Hill

OTTAWA, ON – In celebration of World Water Day, March 22, WaterCan is bringing its development work in Africa to Parliament Hill through the powerful images of Peter Bregg, internationally renowned photographer. The Honourable Peter Milliken, M.P, Speaker of the House of Commons and Margaret Trudeau, Honourary President of WaterCan will be hosting an evening reception on Parliament Hill to mark the official unveiling of *Water for Life: An African Photo Exhibit*.

The exhibit features forty original photographs taken by Mr. Bregg during his travels to WaterCan project sites during the fall of 2009, where he captured the impact of the global water and sanitation crisis and WaterCan's work at the local level. Through this exhibit, WaterCan hopes to deliver its important message to Ministers, departmental officials, Members of Parliament and Senators, as well as a broad Canadian audience during the exhibit's subsequent tour of twelve major cities across the country. In Ottawa, the exhibit will be open to the public at the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology (April 27-May 16, 2010) and the Shenkman Arts Centre in Orléans (May 20 – June 1, 2010).

"The photographs capture and honour the spirit of life in east African communities and illustrates the multiple benefits of clean water and sanitation in the fight against global poverty," notes Ms. Trudeau, who has, herself, traveled to eastern Africa with WaterCan.

The world water crisis is one of the most lethal public health emergencies of our time, and condemns hundreds of millions to struggle for survival at the subsistence level.

- Around the world, 890 million people—about a seventh of the world's population—don't have access to clean drinking water.
- Each year, some 1.5 million children under the age of five die from water and sanitation-related diseases. This accounts for a greater loss of life amongst this age group than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined.
- As a result, healthcare costs soar, countless school and working days are lost, and communities around the world sink deeper into poverty.

**WaterCan would be pleased to provide further resources, a selection of Mr. Bregg's photographs, biographies, quotes and interviews, etc.**

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**WaterCan** is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to providing clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. Since its creation in 1987, WaterCan has assisted more than one million people to live healthier, happier and more productive lives. WaterCan currently supports projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and works with local partners to implement water and sanitation solutions that are low-cost, long-term, and meet the unique needs of each community. For more information, please visit [www.watercan.com](http://www.watercan.com).