



“How I spent my summer vacation”

by members of GRAN's WASH Campaign Team

What one person with a little bit of time can do

by Ruth Buckinger, Sackville, NB

I'm a full-time caregiver to my husband who lives with dementia. I have a four-hour window each day when respite caregivers give me the opportunity to get out and about to run errands, get some fresh air and exercise, and see friends. It's not a lot of time for grand advocacy efforts, but it is enough to do something. I hope my example shows how one person with just a little time can still contribute. Here's what I got up to for WASH this summer:

- My first big step: I emailed files of the Time to Deliver poster, water droplets, and bookmarks to our local printer. They had the printed materials ready for pick-up the same day. Until I actually had the promotional materials in hand, all my plans were just ideas in my head. Once I had materials to work with, I had options (and motivation) to put them to good use.
- While my husband was in hospital in July, I put up a Time to Deliver poster on the bulletin board in the hospital cafeteria where hospital staff and visitors would see it and hopefully take a closer look and be motivated to sign the petition. I walked next door to the medical clinic and put up a poster there too.
- I dropped in at our local independent bookstore and asked if they would accept a stack of Time to Deliver bookmarks for customers to pick up for free. When I explained the purpose of the Time to Deliver campaign, the owner said, *“How can I not support that? Of course we'd be happy to display them.”* I made the same request at our local public library with the same supportive response, so was able to give them bookmarks for patrons, and I also put up a Time to Deliver poster on the library notice board.
- I emailed our local Seniors' College and asked if they'd be interested in offering an online course on WASH this fall. They said yes! I was able to connect with our friends at WaterAid who agreed to deliver two webinars for the College, one in October and one in November. 28 seniors from this region (NB/NS/PEI) have signed up for the course.

None of these actions took much time, minutes really, as part of my usual daily routes and routines. At every step, members of my community were happy to help promote this campaign. It feels good to be part of a collective effort that matters.

Getting the word out to different groups

by Sandy Milakovic, Mississauga, ON

Since joining the WASH team, I have become acutely aware of how we use water in Canada and how fortunate we are to have WASH in a world where many do not. I live on the edge of Lake Ontario and spend time in Muskoka on beautiful freshwater lakes, thinking about those with little or no access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

My summer started with putting together a WASH “baby shower” info table for a Charlie Angus speaking event with about 200 attendees. The bright balloons and wrapped gifts garnered a lot of attention. A bonus was that the line-up to have Charlie sign his books went right past my table, so I had a bit of a captive audience! Many people downloaded the QR code to the Time to Deliver petition and a few took away Time to Deliver bookmarks.

I also had help. Along with another member of my GRAN group, we shared info about the Time to Deliver campaign with three Grandmothers to Grandmothers groups in our region. And another member of my GRAN group was able to get a local bookstore to display some Time to Deliver bookmarks for customers to take.

I sent a couple of emails to my (Liberal) MP and subsequently (after a bit of persistence on my part) had a meeting with him. It was a bit disheartening to not get any kind of commitment from him to forward our request for Canada to show leadership for WASH at the UN Water Conference in December. However, he did say he would find out who would be attending for Canada. He also agreed to have me drop off a poster and bookmarks at his office.

My brain is now spinning with ideas for September!

Teamwork makes advocacy more fun

by Rae Yates, Trenton, ON

I looked forward to this summer as a way to get the word out about WaterAid and Time to Deliver and GRAN. My first step was to ask our city council if I could have a table at the farmers’ market to share information about Time to Deliver. The disappointing answer was: No. Because, in their opinion, asking people to sign a petition was “political”, and nothing “political” can be done at our market. So, instead, I stuck a bunch of bookmarks in my pocket before heading to the market one weekend. I went around individually to all the vendors, handed them a bookmark, did my elevator speech (just 2 minutes – quick!) and asked them to use the QR code to sign the petition. It worked! Two signed right then and there and everyone I approached accepted a bookmark. One man who was visiting from Nova Scotia asked if he could pass it around there...so I gave him some to take home!

I got permission to hold a baby shower info table at the Trenton Library in July. I decorated it with balloons and wrapped baby gifts (labeled: CLEAN WATER, SOAP, TOILETS) and had available Time to Deliver bookmarks and information on the right to water and sanitation and hygiene. Best thing was, it was in the middle of the library’s summer reading program! Lots of moms and kids stopped by my table and many bookmarks were picked up (and some signed

the petition right then). What I especially appreciated was that GTA GRAN Maureen Cassidy drove from Toronto to help with the table (a 2-hour drive for her each way). What a trooper! I was so thankful for Maureen's support and GRAN solidarity. And it was fun to work together.

August saw me sitting at another Time to Deliver baby shower table, this time at the Brighton Library, with GRAN Sharon Graham along for the ride. (By the way, helium balloons do last at least 1 month!) This time I had a large poster of the QR code on the table which takes people directly to the Time to Deliver petition. Many people accessed it to sign right then, and Sharon and I were able to give instructions to some who were uncertain about how to use the QR code.

I'm hoping to hold another baby shower table, and have a presentation planned for the Trenton Rotary Club in September.

Taking every opportunity to raise awareness, from girls' lunches and family visits to condo meetings!

Gail Mullan, Coquitlam, BC

My summer WASH activities began in June when I took the Time to Deliver poster to a girls' lunch (all of us turning 80 this year) and to a Women Educators' potluck where many signed the online petition and some took a copy of the poster to post in their apartment complexes.

During July, I put up Time to Deliver posters in local libraries and at a grocery store and also sent it out in emails to family and friends. Some friends have forwarded it on to others for me. Our summer property is a strata (similar to a condominium arrangement in other parts of the country). I met a group of young women sunbathing on the dock who signed and took a copy of the poster with them. At a strata meeting, I took Time to Deliver info with me and several people signed water droplets and the petition.

During August, I asked friends who were visiting to sign the petition. I also held two baby shower displays at a local library where I got signatures on the petition and water droplets were signed. I even ended up being invited to be interviewed for local community TV! And they asked me to provide additional materials to post with the TV interview which will be on Facebook and YouTube later this month. Fellow GRAN, Anne Gardner, and I made a presentation on GRAN at a local Rotary meeting and were able to highlight the Time to Deliver campaign.

In September I will be hosting another baby shower info table at a different library. (Once you have your display put together it makes repeat events a lot easier, so why not use them again?)

We hope we've inspired you to see that advocacy can be as simple as putting up a poster or inviting your friends to tea. You will find all the materials we talked about – posters, water droplets, QR code, and bookmarks [here](#). Have fun thinking of ways to use them!

Cheers,
GRAN WASH Campaign Team