

Who is Nestlé?

“We sell water so we have to be clever.” – Jeff Caso, former Nestlé Senior Vice-President for Marketing, Sales and Communications.

- Nestlé, officially known as Nestlé S.A., is a multinational corporation based in Switzerland.
- Nestlé Waters is owned by Nestlé S.A. Nestlé Waters Canada, a division of Nestlé Waters, owns and operates the Nestlé bottling plant near Guelph where Nestlé Pure Life brand bottled water is produced. Every bottle of Nestlé Pure Life sold in Ontario contributes to Nestlé’s annual revenue.
- Nestlé employs 276,050 people worldwide and has factories or operations in almost every country in the world. The company produces: chocolate bars; coffee; milk products; baby food; pet food; pharmaceuticals; and bottled water.
- Nestlé Waters, the wholly owned subsidiary of Nestlé behind the lobbying of city officials in Canada, employ 33,500 people in 100 factories in 38 countries. Nestlé Waters produce 72 different brands of bottled water.
- In 2007 Nestlé made \$96 billion (USD) in annual revenue and \$10 billion in profit.
- Nestlé Waters, one of Nestlé’s main business segments contributed \$9.2 billion to the company’s \$96 billion in annual revenue.
- In 2007 former Nestlé CEO and present Chair of Nestlé’s board of directors, Peter Brabeck Letmathe, was paid \$15,499,479.00 (USD).
- Nestlé Waters Canada uses paid lobbyists in Ontario to influence the provincial government on bottled water and health, and the recycling of plastic bottles. The Province of Ontario’s lobbyist registry lists Sean Kirby as a lobbyist for Nestlé Waters Canada. Kirby is also registered as a lobbyist for Wal-Mart Canada.
- In North America, Nestlé has gone to great lengths to silence local activists resisting the construction or expansion of water bottling plants. This has occurred in California¹, Florida², Maine, Michigan, Texas and Wisconsin.³
- In June 2008, a Swiss television station aired a documentary revealing how in 2003 Nestlé had commissioned a private security firm – Securitas – to infiltrate and spy on a group of Swiss citizens who were working on a book about Nestlé’s business activities. The citizens were all members of the trade monitoring group ATTAC. Two complaints have been lodged by ATTAC's defence lawyer and both civil and criminal proceedings are now under way.⁴
- Nestlé has been sued twice in the past 3 years by the US group International Labor Rights Fund. In 2005 the company was sued for allegedly using forced child labour in the production of Cocoa in Africa.⁵ In 2006 the company was sued for complicity in the murder of a Colombian trade union leader by paramilitary forces with which the company has had a long-standing relationship.⁶ Both lawsuits are pending.
- Infant formula – Nestlé has regularly come under fire for marketing infant formula in countries where access to clean potable water is limited. The company has been the target of numerous boycotts due to their marketing of infant formula plays in health issues in countries where clean water is not accessible.⁷

¹ <http://www.mccloudwatershedcouncil.org/>

² <http://www.polarisinstitute.org/files/Nestle%20October%20update.pdf> Page 31,

³ <http://www.polarisinstitute.org/files/Nestle%20October%20update.pdf> Pages, 13-14

⁴ http://www.nestlecritics.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=54&Itemid=1

⁵ <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/676>

⁶ <http://www.laborrights.org/end-violence-against-trade-unions/colombia/968>

⁷ For more information www.babymilkaction.org/