Canada is celebrated for its abundance of fresh water, yet it is estimated that 90,000 cases of illness, and 90 deaths, are caused by contaminated drinking water every year. Another study suggests contamination is present in more than 30,000 in-ground sources of water throughout the country.

Award-winning journalist Chris Wood and Canadian water policy expert Ralph Pentland provide an authoritative review of decades of legislation, research, and independent critiques, accompanied by riveting stories of water management failures. They explore how governments have failed to protect waters that support every aspect of our national economy, and that we continue to drink, fish, and swim in.

Down the Drain scrutinizes the history of water management in Canada, comparing it to approaches in Europe and the US. The authors set up a list of best practices for the protection of our water, and propose measures to improve Canada’s performance, including a new charter that will hold governments to account.

Down the Drain is written with years of research and compelling clarity about an increasingly crucial topic.

Ralph Pentland was Director of Water Planning and Management in the Canadian Department of Environment from 1978 to 1991. He is Acting Chair of the Canadian Water Issues Council at the University of Toronto, a member of the Forum of Leadership on Water, and a widely sought after consultant.

Chris Wood is an award-winning journalist who has worked for more than thirty years as an independent writer, with stories featured in Maclean’s, the CBC, The Globe and Mail, The Tyee, The Walrus and Reader’s Digest Canada. His recent writing focuses on water, climate, and society’s adaptation to ecological limits. He serves as a coordinating editor to the non-profit Tyee Solutions Society, among other projects.

DOWN THE DRAIN
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