

## RCEN e-Bulletin – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Edition

### Network News

Good News for April Fools'

Parliament will be voting today on Bill C-311, the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, which would commit Canada to reducing GHG emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by the year 2020.

Whatever the outcome of this vote is, there were two “good news” announcements made this week that will directly benefit the state of forests in Canada. Yesterday, the B.C. government met a deadline to bring a new approach in resource development to B.C.'s Central and North Coast, which will protect one-third of the province's unique Great Bear Rainforest. And only a few days ago, the Quebec government reached its stated goal to protect 8% of its territory from exploitation. Congratulations to all the groups who made these achievements happen.

New Documents on the RCEN website:

- Delegate Report: [CSD-17 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting](#)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus: 1) [Adaptive Management in Environmental Assessment and Environmental Management: A Legal and Policy Analysis](#); 2) [Environmental Assessment Process Substitution: Is Meaningful Public Participation Possible?](#)

### Calls for Delegates

Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Steering Committee – ENGO Member

The RCEN Mining Caucus will be selecting one ENGO delegate to join the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) Steering Committee. This delegate will join a second active ENGO delegate on this Committee and will take on a 2-year alternating term, from April 2009 to April 2011. The Steering Committee meets face-to-face on average once per year in conjunction with the MEND Annual Meeting in December. There are several teleconferences per year, and member expertise is requested at times for the review of technical research proposals and final reports. For face-to-face meetings, Natural Resources Canada's NOAMI/MEND Secretariat will pay travel costs when incurred and provides a \$250 per diem. The deadline to apply is April 6, 2009. [Read More...](#)

National Orphaned / Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee – ENGO Member

The RCEN Mining Caucus will be selecting one ENGO delegate to join the National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee. This delegate will join a second active ENGO delegate on this Committee and will take on a 2-year alternating term, from April 2009 to April 2011. The Advisory Committee meets face-to-face on average 2 times per year in conjunction with the spring NOAMI Annual General Meeting and the Mines Ministers Meeting in September. Participation on Task Groups is also encouraged on a volunteer basis. For face-to-face meetings, Natural Resources Canada's NOAMI/MEND Secretariat will pay travel costs when incurred and provides a \$250 per diem. The deadline to apply is April 6, 2009. [Read More...](#)

### Other Calls

## Call for NGO Participation in the Chemicals Management Plan

The federal government's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) is proceeding very fast, with about 70 priority chemicals progressing through the various stages of assessment and risk management. Health and environmental organizations are encouraged to comment on individual assessments, alongside proposed risk management decisions that are based on the assessments. It is important that the government hear from a large number of organizations, and that more substances be reviewed, particularly those that are of interest in terms of disease and disorder prevention and/or environmental protection. The RCEN can provide funding to assist organizations in preparing submissions. Environmental Defence also assists organisations by preparing draft analyses of chemicals in various Batches, with recommendations. Please contact [Philana Dollin](#) at (613) 728-9810 x. 223 if you are interested in participating, or if you would like to [receive updates about the CMP](#).

## Announcements

### The Wild Rockies Field Institute: Wild Rockies Summer Semester

The Wild Rockies Field Institute is inviting Canadian students to study conservation issues on a spectacular backpacking course with them this summer. The exploration will begin in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem of south-central Montana, and finish in the Canadian Rockies. From June 19 to August 19, the course will examine conservation at a broad regional perspective, a Native American perspective, and at the local landscape level, with the goal of finding a comprehensive understanding of these issues. Subjects addressed will include conservation biology, community-based conservation, regional environmental policy, restoration ecology, and traditional ecological knowledge. The enrollment deadline is April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For more information on this field course, visit [www.wrfi.net](http://www.wrfi.net).

### Delegate Selection – Youth Relations with Parks, Canadian Historic Landmarks and Heritage Sites

The RCEN has been invited by Parks Canada to select one (1) ENGO youth to participate in a youth gathering that will take place from April 4-5 in Gatineau, QC. The selected youth delegate is: Graeme Bousada, Eco-Action (Mount Allison University), NB. This meeting, where 20 or so youth between the ages of 18 and 25 will participate, will focus on discussion of youth's relations with parks, Canadian historic landmarks and Heritage Sites. At the end of this gathering, recommendations will be made to Parks Canada and the Canadian Commission to UNESCO on how to best engage youth in these heritage sites. [Read More...](#)

## Action Alerts

### Sierra Club BC – Save the Flathead River Valley

The Sierra Club of BC has just launched a new website to save the Flathead River Valley. Last week, BC's Outdoor Recreation Council named the Flathead River BC's most endangered river. Canadian Geographic magazine calls the Flathead River Valley a "nursery" for wildlife. The Flathead is compared to Africa's Serengeti for its richness of plant species--more than 1,000 wildflower species alone. The provincial government says it hasn't heard from enough citizens that they want to protect the Flathead River Valley. The Flathead is under threat from a proposal for "mountain top removal" coal mining, and other energy and mining development. Please let the government know you care, and [click here to become a Friend of the Flathead](#).

## **Employment**

Vivre en Ville - Policy and Communications Coordinator

Vivre en Ville, the Quebecois group for liveable urban and rural development, is seeking a dynamic individual to join its team in April. The coordinator will be mandated to represent the organization and its mission and ensure the functioning of the various communication tools of the organization. A university degree in land planning, urban planning, environment or sustainable development is required, in addition to having a very good knowledge of municipal affairs and sustainable development in Quebec. This position will be based in Montreal or Quebec. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2009. Visit [www.vivreenville.org](http://www.vivreenville.org) more details (French only).