

RCEN E-Bulletin – October 1st, 2008 Edition

Network News

RCEN Annual General Assembly Updates

The registration deadline for the AGA is next Wednesday, October 8th! Register now to win tickets to the [Planet in Focus](#) International Environmental Film & Video Festival. The next 8 people to register and pay online will receive two “Free Range” vouchers, to use for any regular screening during the festival (October 22-26). [Click here to register now!](#)

This year’s keynote speech will be given by Dr. Lynn Marshall on the topic of “Health and the Environment”. Other workshops and sessions will address topics such as: children’s environmental health, collaboration between indigenous and environmental groups, the environmental challenges of continental integration, nanotechnologies, electromagnetic radiation sensitivities and sustainability. [View the Schedule](#)

Make your trip to the AGA carbon-neutral! Buy your “Gold Standard” carbon offsets from [Planetair](#), a Canadian non-profit service based in Montreal.

The 2008 AGA will take place at the Sheraton Parkway and Best Western Parkway Hotels in Toronto (Richmond Hill), from October 24-26. See you there!

Elections Resources: Check out our [Elections 2008](#) webpage for a list of useful resources intended to make the environment a top issue on October 14th.

Calls for Delegates

Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Perspectives on Risk Assessment

The RCEN is seeking ten (10) delegates to participate in a workshop sponsored by the National Orphaned Abandoned Mines Initiative (NOAMI) entitled “Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Perspectives on Risk Assessment” to be held November 13-14 in Vancouver, BC. This workshop involving case studies and best practices has been designed to explore and understand the different perspectives related to the risk assessment process at orphaned and abandoned mines. The workshop will include speakers from a variety of sectors and perspectives, including: government, industry, Aboriginal, environmental NGOs, and community organizations. Delegate travel and lodging expenses will be reimbursed according to Treasury Board guidelines. **The deadline to apply is Monday, October 6, 2008.** [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

ENGO-DFO National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee

The RCEN is currently looking for a new ENGO delegate to join the ENGO-DFO National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee (NFHCC). The purpose of the NFHCC is to plan, organize and coordinate cooperative activities between ENGOs and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in support of fish habitat management in Canada. The NFHCC meets monthly by teleconference and twice a year in person. ENGO members of the NFHCC are reimbursed for travel and living expenses related to all face-to-face meetings. **The deadline to apply has been extended to October 7, 2008.** [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

Other Calls

Call for Papers - 6th Canadian River Heritage Conference

Members of the RCEN are invited to submit abstracts to - and to attend - the 6th Canadian River Heritage Conference in Ottawa in June, 2009. This conference will be the major river/water forum in Canada for 2009. With its broad themes (Sustaining our River Heritage; Promoting Heritage and Recreational Opportunities; and Optimizing Economic and Social Benefits), the conference presents an excellent opportunity to participate in a dialogue on a wide variety of topics with national and international delegates. Please visit www.riversconference.ca to learn more about the conference, and in particular, the [Call for Papers and Posters section](#) for information on how to submit an abstract. **The deadline for the Call for Papers is November 15th.**

Call for Applications – Echoing Green Fellowship

Each year, Echoing Green awards 20 two-year fellowships to entrepreneurs creating new social change organizations. Fellows receive up to \$90,000 in seed funding and technical support to turn their innovative ideas into sustainable organizations. Echoing Green seeks individuals or partnerships (organizations led by two people) with: innovative solutions to significant social problems, strategies to create high-impact, sustainable change in people's lives, the ability to grow and lead a new organization. The application process is open to citizens of all nationalities, working in any country. The online application for the 2009 fellowship is now available at <http://www.echoinggreen.org/fellowship>. **The deadline for applications is December 1, 2008.**

Announcements

Frontlines Forum: Climate Change and Vulnerable Environments

Despite broad recognition that small island, Arctic, high altitude and other vulnerable communities are on the frontlines of climate change, their voices have remained largely on the sidelines of climate change debates. In response to this exclusion, the grassroots Internet forum On the Frontlines of Climate Change was launched by UNESCO. The goals of the Frontlines Forum are to: draw international attention to the knowledge and experiences of these communities; seek community-level observations on climate change impacts, as well as local efforts to cope with and adapt to these changes; and provide an opportunity for communities to voice their observations, experiences and concerns, and to share and exchange them with others. Following the forum's launch on June 12, 2008, 3 cycles of discussions have been received from contributors. **These debates, and more information, can be found at www.climatefrontlines.org.**

Resources

Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights

Researched and drafted by Ecojustice lawyers on behalf of Friends of the Earth and Sierra Club, the Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights (CEBR) is model legislation that would formally enshrine in law the right of all Canadians to a healthy environment. Presented to all federal parties last June, the proposed CEBR would strengthen Canada's framework for protecting the environment by establishing a statutory (rather than a constitutional) right to a healthy environment and by imposing a legal duty upon the federal government to protect this right. It would also guarantee key procedural rights, such as access to environmental information, the ability to participate in environmental decision-making, and the ability to request investigations and policy reviews. **To read a summary of the document, please visit ecojustice.ca.**

Statistics Canada Publication - Human Activity and the Environment

Statistics Canada's 2007-2008 *Human Activity and the Environment* (HAE) publication is a trustworthy and readable resource that paints a statistical portrait of Canada's environment through a compendium of maps, tables and figures punctuated with simple analysis and interpretation. This latest edition includes a special emphasis on human activity and climate change. The feature article, "Climate change in Canada", looks at greenhouse gas emissions, including their sources and impacts, and also contains practices to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as advice on how to adapt to the changing climate. **This publication is now available at statcan.ca.**

Events

Forum on Nanotechnology in Toronto

On October 15, the St. Lawrence Center for the Arts in Toronto will be hosting a forum on nanotechnology. Entitled "Nanotechnology: No Small Matter", the event will feature a panel discussion on the public interest questions about the safety, benefits and desirability of nanotechnology. Panelists will include: Chris Metcalfe, Institute of Watershed Science at Trent University; Trina Foster, Council of Canadian Academies Report of the Expert Panel on Nanotechnology; and Susan Holtz, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. **For more information, please visit the [St. Lawrence Center Forum online](#).**

International Education for Sustainable Development Conference

The International Education for Sustainable Development Conference will take place at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, November 26-28, 2008 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This conference is a project of the Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (MESDWG), which brings together stakeholders from the formal, non-formal, and informal education sectors in an effort to further develop, communicate and promote ESD in Manitoba. This conference is for leaders of business, NGO's and government who are involved in reaching their employees and stakeholders about doing business and operating sustainably. The conference is also for educators who wish to embed the life concepts of sustainable development in their curriculums and teachings. **For conference details and registration information, please visit <http://www.mesdwg.ca/>.**

Employment

CPAWS – Associate Executive Director

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is looking for a motivated individual with experience in a senior level management role to join its team in Ottawa, Ontario as soon as possible. As the second most senior staff position, the Associate Executive Director (AED) is the chief operations officer. S/he is to dedicate the majority of his/her time to the business of managing the operations of the organization and its fiscal accountability, its responsibilities under the various laws (Charity, Employer, Trademark, Tax, etc.) and of the governance processes of a charitable environmental not-for-profit structure which is composed of a national office and 13 regional chapters. **The deadline for submissions is October 12th, 2008.** For more information, please go to: <http://cpaws.org/about/employment.php>.

Greenpeace - Media & Public Relations Officer

Greenpeace Canada is seeking an experienced media and public relations professional to fill a vacancy in their Toronto office. The major focus of the position is to increase the effectiveness of Greenpeace campaign communications and Greenpeace organization profile through identifying media and public relations opportunities, responding to events and providing strategic communications advice. Candidates will be expected to travel occasionally and will assist campaign staff with their communications, through input, advice and critical analysis. Candidates should possess sound general knowledge of a wide range of environmental issues and 3 years minimum experience in the field of communications. **The deadline for applications is October 20, 2008.** For more information about this opportunity, please go to greenpeace.org.