

RCEN e-Bulletin – June 3rd, 2009 Edition

Network News

Pre-AGA News and Sponsors

The RCEN's 32nd Annual General Assembly is just around the corner, with the opening keynote speech to be given by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on June 12th. If you haven't registered yet, please do so before June 7th.

You can find the registration form and all other information, including the agenda, speakers' bios and other useful information about the event at www.rcen.ca/AGA/2009/index.htm.

The RCEN would like to thank all of the event's sponsors, who have generously provided various forms of support in order to make this year's AGA a smashing success:

[Alberta Environmental Network](#)
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RCEN "Living Memory" Tour Now In Saskatchewan!

The two cyclists that make up the RCEN's "Living Memory" Tour are now crossing Saskatchewan and will be interviewing members of the Network living in and around Saskatoon this week. Since May 6th, Dylan and Garrett have captured several RCEN members' stories and experiences on video, survived hypothermia and crossed the Rocky Mountains! Read about their adventures and see the photos at <http://www.canadianodyssey.ca/>.

Announcements

Delegate Selection – Youth and Caucus Members' Participation in the RCEN AGA

The RCEN has selected 10 youth environmentalists to participate in its 2009 Annual General Assembly, from June 12-14 in Edmonton, AB. By inviting youth to attend the AGA, the RCEN aims to better integrate their voices in discussions surrounding current issues, get them involved in the Network's activities and give them an opportunity to meet some of the most experienced environmentalists in the country. To view the list of selected youth delegates, [click here](#).

The RCEN has also selected one member from each of its 9 caucuses in order to increase member participation in the AGA. To view the selected caucus delegates, please [click here](#).

Action Alerts

CBAN - Join the Global Rejection of GE Wheat

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network invites all civil society organizations and social movements - organizations, community groups, and gatherings of Indigenous peoples, farmers, peasants, churches, and all others - to endorse their "Stop GE Wheat" campaign by signing on to the following statement. (Your group's name will be used in a list of groups that state opposition to genetically engineered/modified wheat): "In light of our existing experience with genetic engineering, and recognizing the global consumer rejection of genetically engineered wheat, we restate our definitive opposition to GE wheat and our commitment to stopping the commercialization of GE traits in our wheat crops." Groups are invited to sign-on before August 31, 2009, at <http://cban.ca/>.

Resources

Report: Canada's Species at Risk Act - Implementation at a Snail's Pace

A report by Canadian conservation groups claims that "unless significant changes are made to the implementation of Canada's *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), it will have a legacy of protecting little more than the diminutive Banff Springs Snail". The release of the report card coincides with the mandatory five-year review of the Act. It exposes "a federal government that is dodging its legal responsibilities". A grade of 'F' is doled out twice in the report: first for failing to take measures to protect the habitat of at-risk species, and again for refusing to ever employ the federal "safety net," which is meant to protect SARA-listed species under provincial jurisdiction when provincial governments fail to protect them. To read the report, entitled "Canada's Species at Risk Act: Implementation at a Snail's Pace", please visit www.ecojustice.ca.

Events

6th Annual Earth Day Canada Gala

The 6th annual Earth Day Canada Gala will take place on June 10th at the Drake Hotel in Toronto. Tickets sold for the gala directly support Earth Day Canada's year-round suite of environmental programmes. As part of the Gala, the organization's Outstanding Commitment to the Environment and Hometown Heroes Awards will be presented. These awards recognize the important work taking place in Canada in support of a healthier environment. This year, the Gala will feature comedians Mark McKinney and Sean Cullen, as well as musical performances by the Sultans of String. For more information, or to attend the 2009 Earth Day Canada Gala, visit <http://www.earthday.ca/gala/index.php>.

Great Lake Toxic Hotspots: Organizing the Cleanup Workshop

In this workshop presented by Great Lakes United, activists and experts explore the role of citizens in cleaning up some of the worst sites of pollution in the Great Lakes region. Speakers include Peter Montague, editor of Rachel's Environment and Health News, Jim Brophy and Margaret Keith of Toxic Free Canada who have helped clear the blur surrounding health impacts on the First Nations community of Aamjiwnaang near Sarnia's chemical valley, and Matt Doss, of the Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council and the Great Lakes Commission. The all-day workshop takes place on Friday, June 12 at the Center for the Arts, University of New York at

Buffalo. The registration fee is US\$25 and includes lunch and refreshments. Find out more and register at www.glu.org/sharedwaters.

Employment

Plenty Canada – Summer Student Positions

Plenty Canada is currently seeking two summer students to fill the following positions: Communications & Community Outreach Assistant and Forestry – Biologist Program Assistant. The Communications & community Outreach Assistant will assist with the production of communications materials, i.e.: fact sheets, pamphlets, newsletters, website maintenance organization and delivery of public events. The Forestry – Biologist Program Assistant will work with Coordinators to organize, deliver, report and evaluate Plenty Canada's certified forest plan development, tree-marking, species at risk, invasive species, traditional resource knowledge and traditional resource management programs. Candidates for these positions must be returning to school in September. Applications should be sent by email to the attention of Paulette Caley, Project Development Coordinator at paulette@plentycanada.com. For more information, please www.plentycanada.com.

Nature-Action Québec – Forestry/Wildlife Technician

Nature-Action Québec is currently seeking a Forestry/Wildlife Technician to work in Québec's Beloeil region. The technician's primary responsibilities will be to: perform forest inventories of flora and fauna characteristics; prepare field trips; supervise staff; and analyze and process biological data. Candidates must have a very good knowledge of forestry and wildlife management and vocational training, college or university completed in one or other of the following fields: forestry, wildlife management, applied ecology or environmental studies. Please send your CV to gisele.gravel@nature-action.qc.ca before June 11, 2009 to apply. For more information, visit http://www.nature-action.qc.ca/nature_action/ (in French).