

RCEN e-Bulletin – January 6th, 2010 Edition

Network News

Launch of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) to highlight the crucial role that biodiversity plays in supporting all life on Earth, including our own. IYB marks the 2010 Biodiversity Target aiming to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by this date. The RCEN joins actors from around the world to work together to raise awareness on biodiversity and form a global alliance for the promotion of life on Earth.

The RCEN Biodiversity Caucus will use this opportunity to engage Canadian civil society on key biodiversity issues through education, public awareness and participatory policy processes. In honour of the International Year, biodiversity has also been chosen as the theme for the RCEN 2010 Annual Conference on the Environment. For more information, visit the [Biodiversity Caucus webpage](#).

Saskatchewan Activist Isabel Muzichuk Mourned

Isabel Muzichuk, an active member of the RCEN Water, Fisheries and Oceans Caucus Steering Committee, passed away on December 8th after a brief illness. Isabel was one of the first and most active people in Saskatchewan to oppose industrial hog barns. She was also highly involved on the Saskatchewan Environmental Network's Board of Directors. The RCEN offers its sincerest condolences to her family and friends. To sign or view the guestbook for Isabel, please [visit here](#).

Announcements

Apply Now for the EDC Community Environment Fund

The Earth Day Canada (EDC) Community Environment Fund is now accepting applications for the spring grant period. The Community Environment Fund provides Ontario schools, not-for-profits and volunteer groups the opportunity to create and inspire environmental action in local communities. The Fund recognizes and celebrates the tremendous impact of grassroots projects, and provides up to \$20000 in financial support for local environmental initiatives. To be eligible for a grant, applicants must clearly demonstrate the benefits their projects will have on the environment and local community and be open to the public. The deadline for applications is February 28th, 2010. Full eligibility criteria, application criteria and application materials are available online at www.earthday.ca/envirofund.

Alan Thomas Fellowship to Promote Civil Society and Voluntary Action

The Carold Institute is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 2010 Alan Thomas Fellowship to Promote Civil Society and Voluntary Action. This initiative is aimed at strengthening leadership for civil society and promoting greater understanding of the significance of voluntary action. The Fellowship will again be awarded in 2010 to a leader in the NGO/non-profit sector who would not normally have access to a sabbatical leave. Valued at a maximum amount of \$60,000 for up to one year, the award is intended to allow the recipient to make a significant contribution to the sector, through research and reflection, leading to possible publication, or dissemination in another medium. The deadline for applications is March 26, 2010. Visit www.carold.ca for fuller details.

Every Day Heroes Film Competition

All filmmakers, young and old, established and aspiring, are invited to submit 90-second silent videos to the Every Day Heroes Film Competition. Finalists will have their videos screened in Ivanhoe Cambridge Shopping Malls across Canada, on the Onestop Network of 270 monitors on the subway platforms of the Toronto Transit Commission, as well as hosted on Earth Day Canada's website and YouTube channel. Inspire Canada this Earth Day. Tell the story of your every day environmental hero and their dedication to support of a healthier environment. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2010. Visit www.earthday.ca/film for more details and submission form.

Friends of the Earth's Climate Change Lawsuit Goes to Supreme Court

On December 15th, Canadian lawyer Chris Paliare and Ecojustice, on behalf of Friends of the Earth Canada, filed an appeal with the Supreme Court seeking to argue that the Government is breaking Canadian law by failing to comply with the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act (KPIA). It is the first climate change lawsuit in Canadian history. The application alleges that the federal Minister of the Environment and the Governor in Council are ignoring the rule of law by failing to comply with the Act, duly passed by Parliament in June 2007. For more information on the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act Lawsuit, please visit www.foecanada.org or www.ecojustice.ca.

Resources

Report: Boreal Forests Likely Not to Adapt to Climate Change

The world's boreal forests will likely not be able to respond to global warming by migrating northwards states a new study based on a review of recent scientific literature. The study, published by the Swedish Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat, in cooperation with the Taiga Rescue Network, asserts that massive forest dieback is a more likely scenario. Even at moderate levels of warming, extensive decline can be expected in forests and woods. If global warming exceeds 2 degrees Celsius vast areas of boreal forest may be transformed into open woodland or grassland. Read the report "Boreal Forest and Climate Change" by Roger Olsson: http://www.airclim.org/reports/documents/APC23_borealforest.pdf.

New Report on Urban Transit in Canada

The Council of Ministers of Transportation has released the report of an intergovernmental task force on urban transportation entitled "Urban Transit in Canada: Taking Stock of Recent Progress." The report highlights trends and challenges in transit, summarizes the status of transit funding in provinces, and describes significant funding commitments made by the federal government to the sector. Investment in transit has increased by 60% over 2005 levels. The report identifies many positive economic, social, and environmental impacts resulting from recent investments and notes that much has been accomplished, though more remains to be done. The report is now available on-line at: <http://www.comt.ca/english/reports-e.htm>

Events

Protecting and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems through Government and Community Action

The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, in partnership with the St. Lawrence River Restoration Council, will host its 17th annual international conference on May 5-6, 2010. The St. Lawrence River is the collector of all Great Lakes outflow and traffic - a complex waterway with huge economic and environmental implications. The conference will concentrate on critical protection and restoration efforts needed today to sustain and manage freshwater aquatic ecosystems into the future. Experts in research, conservation, and community development will come together to share knowledge and concerns about the current state of freshwater aquatics, and to discuss action plans for restoration, protection, and management of these ecosystems. For more information, please visit www.riverinstitute.ca.

FCM Conference: Growing the Green Economy: Practical Solutions for Sustainable Communities

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show is the event in Canada for municipal leaders, decision makers and experts to exchange ideas and solutions towards creating a stronger and more sustainable community development. From February 10-12, 2010, in Ottawa, delegates can attend interactive and capacity-building workshops, sharing knowledge with their peers and keynote speakers about topics ranging from water conservation to green development policies. The conference trade show will feature exhibitors displaying the latest technologies and services related to sustainable community development. Visit <http://www.fcm.ca/> for more information.

Conference: Exploring cultural and practical diversity for environmental learning

The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) would like to invite you to its 2010 Annual Conference - Diversity, sustainability and environment: Exploring cultural and practical diversity for environmental learning - which is being held in Vancouver, BC, at Simon Fraser University, from May 19-22, 2010. The EECOM 2010 conference will focus on the diversity present within the field of environmental learning, both culturally and practically. Visit www.educ.sfu.ca/eecom2010 for more information.

Registration Now Open for the McGill Water Conference

The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada is pleased to announce that registration for the *Canadian Water: Towards a New Strategy* conference is now open. Focusing on issues related to Canadian water policies, the conference will be held from March 25-26, 2010 in Montreal. So far, an interesting group of speakers have been recruited and the challenge now is to attract an equally distinguished group of participants! Please visit the conference program at www.mcgill.ca/water2010/programme/ for further details about this conference.

Employment

Pembina Institute - Electricity Policy Analyst, Alberta Energy Solutions Program

The Pembina Institute is seeking a bright and resourceful individual with experience in the electricity sector and the environment who is committed to helping Canada and Alberta to transition towards a sustainable energy future. The analyst position will require you to understand Alberta's electricity generation and transmission sector, factors affecting electricity consumption, the environmental, social and economic implications of current and forecast electricity development, as well as the Institute's role in raising awareness about the implications of conventional electricity generation and alternatives. Candidates should have an undergraduate or graduate degree in a relevant subject, demonstrated research skills, and experience with both technical and popular writing. The deadline for applications is January 22, 2010. Visit

<http://www.pembina.org/about/jobs> for more information.

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board – Fisheries Biologist

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB), a Co-management Board located in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, is currently seeking a motivated full-time Fisheries Biologist. The main function of this position is fisheries management and research. However, the Fisheries Biologist will also be responsible for forest management. Main responsibilities include: providing support and information to the Board on fisheries and forestry research, management, policy and legislation issues; and working with the appropriate government agencies and Renewable Resource Councils on fisheries management plans for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries, biology, or a similar field and past work experience in fisheries research and management. The deadline for applications is January 13, 2010. Visit <http://www.grrb.nt.ca/> for more information.