

RCEN e-Bulletin – July 8th, 2009 Edition

Network News

Announcing the Pan-Canadian Biodiversity Best Practices/Case Studies Contest!

In advance of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, the RCEN is launching a “Best Practices/Case Studies Contest” to gather innovative and effective examples of environmental NGOs’ work related to the conservation, sustainable use, and awareness of biodiversity.

The “winning” case studies and best practices will be featured in a 20-page handbook to be included as an annex to Canada’s 4th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. If your best practice or case study is selected, you will receive \$200 to write a 1-2 page summary to be included in the handbook. [More](#)

Welcome to new National Council members and Board of Directors

At its Annual General Meeting this past June, the RCEN welcomed several new members to the National Council (NC) and Board of Directors. The NC is a volunteer governing body that represents the general membership and elects members to the Board of Directors at the AGM. Welcome to all new members and thank you to all for your dedication to the Network. [See the list of 2009-2010 NC and Board members](#)

Missed the 2009 AGA photos, videos and presentations in the last e-Bulletin? [View them here](#)

Calls for Delegates

ENGO participation in Consultations on Proposed Amendments to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (Schedule 2)

The RCEN has been invited to select a roster of ENGO delegates from which 4 will be selected to participate in each of several consultations on proposed amendments to the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations* (MMER) to add lakes as tailings impoundment areas (TIAs) to Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Environment Canada (EC) anticipates that there will be several consultations during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years in conjunction with proposed amendments to the MMER. RCEN delegates are invited to participate in a consultation session for each amendment proposal. EC will pay travel costs (when incurred), and up to four days of time at \$350 per diem to each delegate for each project under consideration. [More information](#)

Other Calls

Call for Papers: Canada’s Political Environment and the Politics of the Canadian Environment

The John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, the University of Toronto in Berlin, in conjunction with the Canadian Embassy in Germany are hosting a conference from November 14-15 in Berlin, Germany, to examine the state of Canadian politics with a focus on current environmental policy and eco-political challenges. Graduate students and established scholars are invited to propose papers that address these questions for presentation at the conference. Professor Kathryn Harrison, a leading scholar of Canadian and comparative environmental politics at UBC, will deliver an

address at the conference. Interested participants should submit an abstract of 300-500 words and a CV by July 15, 2009. [Click here for more information](#)

Announcements

State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report

The Saskatchewan River Basin funnels water from the Rocky Mountains to Lake Winnipeg. With an area slightly larger than Germany, the Basin is home to over three million people. The *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* brings together current water conditions, vulnerabilities, and influences from throughout the Prairie Provinces in attempt to bridge knowledge gaps related to our waterways. The report encourages informed discussions, recommendations, and decisions regarding water resources. Accessible to stakeholders at all levels, the document illuminates many pressing environmental issues. Further information and the document can be found online at <http://www.saskriverbasin.ca/> or by contacting Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin at partners@saskriverbasin.ca.

Seal the Deal! UN Global Campaign for Copenhagen 2009

The UN-led Seal the Deal Campaign aims to galvanize political will and public support for reaching a comprehensive global climate agreement in Copenhagen in December. The Campaign encourages users to sign an online, global petition which will be presented to world leaders and serve as a reminder that world leaders must seal a deal to power green growth, protect our planet and build a more sustainable, prosperous global economy that will benefit all nations and all people. The Seal the Deal! Climate Week will also take place from September 20-26 in 100 cities around the world. Visit <http://www.sealthedeal2009.org/> to participate in the campaign.

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators and Water Quality

Environment Canada (EC), Statistics Canada and Health Canada have been working together, in collaboration with provincial and territorial partners, to develop and communicate EC's Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) and to present related information on society and the economy to the Canadian public and to policy makers. CESI has developed a short article highlighting water quality information entitled "Canada's Authoritative Source for Environmental Information at your Fingertips" that can be viewed at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/>. As well, CESI released EC's latest results on three issues of concern to Canadians: air quality, water quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in March 2009. These latest CESI findings can be viewed at: www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators.

Resources

HOME – A film by Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Launched on World Environment Day (June 5th), HOME is an ode to the planet's beauty and its delicate harmony. Through the landscapes of 54 countries captured from above, Yann Arthus-Bertrand takes us on a unique journey all around the planet, to contemplate it and to understand it. The film intends to shift people's perceptions, to make us aware of the tectonic movements at work and to incite us to act. It adds its weight to the argument of environmental organizations that we need a common sense approach to change our consumerist way of life. [Watch HOME online now](#)

Useful Links to Health Canada Consultations and Listservs

The following links lead to Health Canada web pages containing information on consultations and where you may sign up for listservs managed by the Food Directorate.

In this section of Health Canada's website, you will find information on public involvement and consultation related to food and nutrition:

- Public Consultations Web-Page - Food and Nutrition (Health Canada): <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consultation/index-eng.php>
- Current and Past consultations (Food and Nutrition): <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consultation/init/index-eng.php>

The listservs below allow you to receive Health Canada's e-Notices; a free service to stay on top of issued advice as well as regulatory and scientific developments in the areas of for food additives, food contaminants and food allergies respectively in Canada:

- Food Additives: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/addit/enot-add-avis-eng.php>
- Food Contaminants: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/chem-chim/chem_e-notice-avis-eng.php
- Food Allergies: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/allerg/fa-aa/allergen_e-notice_avis-eng.php

Events

Gasping for Breath - Implementing Strong Anti-Idling Bylaws in Your Community

The Council of Canadians and Canadians for Action on Climate Change announce a *Fireside Chat* scheduled for this Thursday, July 9th, from 1:00-2:30PM ET. A free pan-Canadian discussion via telephone/internet, this event will review and discuss the recent decision around changes to existing anti-idling bylaw in the City of London and what is happening in your community. This is a local issue, with global consequences. Municipalities need to find the political will to effectively implement strong anti idling bylaws to confront the enormity of climate change. The most urgent need is to empower local government and local communities to understand climate implications and to take action. This fireside chat will provide stats, perspectives and inspiration to take action. For more information/registration, visit: www.chnet-works.ca.

From Canada to Copenhagen: Pedal for the Planet

Pedal for the Planet is a chance for individuals, organizations and communities to join together, to ensure that Canada does its fair share to tackle the climate crisis. As of July 3rd, people across the country have been joining rides and walks leaving the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Using bikes, trains and other modes of green transport, they are demonstrating their personal commitment to change, and relaying their expectations for a Copenhagen climate treaty on to Ottawa. Local *Pedal for the Planet* [events](#) are planned across the country this summer as riders reach different cities on their way to Ottawa. Visit <http://kyotoplus.ca/pedal/> for more information and to participate in the campaign!

Employment

Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability - Executive Director

The Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability (Coalition-SGSL) is seeking an experienced and dynamic person to fill the role of Executive Director. The position requires an action-oriented person who will accomplish a number of tasks, including: working with and engaging various stakeholders, communicating effectively with the Coalition membership; ensuring sound financial management; and supervising personnel. Candidates should be fluently bilingual in French and English, have a university degree in a relevant area, and a minimum of five years experience working with community groups and project management. The deadline to apply is July 14, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca>.

Climate Action Network – Communications Coordinator

The Climate Action Network (CAN-Canada) is seeking a Communications Coordinator to play a critical role in developing and implementing communications strategies in the lead-up to and during the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen this December. The chosen candidate will also support communications related to CAN-Canada's overall work. This role demands creativity, dedication, and the ability to write and produce a wide range of printed and electronic communications materials. The ideal candidate will have a degree in communications, journalism or a related field and a minimum of three years experience in communications. This is a full-time, six month position, based in Ottawa. The deadline for applications is July 9, 2009 at 12pm EDT. For more information, visit <http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/job-posting-06-2009.html>.