

RCEN e-Bulletin – April 9, 2009 Edition

Network News

Join an RCEN Caucus Steering Committee!

The RCEN is currently conducting a “Call for Nominations” for members to join the Steering Committees of the following national caucuses: Agriculture; Atmosphere & Energy; Forest; Health; Mining; Water, Fisheries and Oceans; and Toxics. This is an excellent opportunity for you to be part of Caucus decision-making and the planning of future activities!

This call is open to all RCEN members who belong to, or are interested in joining these caucuses. Steering Committee members will serve a two-year term from May 2009 to April 2011. Current members whose terms are up for renewal are encouraged to re-apply. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, April 21, 2009. [Learn more...](#)

AGA Registration

Registration for the 2009 AGA (June 12-14, in Edmonton) is now open for RCEN members and non-members. Please visit <http://www.rcen.ca/AGA/2009/index.html> to register before May 8th.

Update about NOAMI and MEND *Calls for Delegates*

Due to a technical problem, some delegate applications for these two committees were not received by the RCEN in the last two weeks. If you applied for any of these calls and did not get a reply from the Caucus Coordinator, please re-submit your application before the new deadline of April 16. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Calls for Delegates

Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Steering Committee – ENGO Member

** Due to a technical problem, some delegate applications for this call for delegates were not received by the RCEN over the past two weeks. If you applied for this consultation and did not get a reply from the Caucus Coordinator, please re-submit your application before the new deadline. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.*

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 16, 2009. [Read More...](#)

National Orphaned / Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee – ENGO Member

** Due to a technical problem, some delegate applications for this call for delegates were not received by the RCEN over the past two weeks. If you applied for this consultation and did not get a reply from the Caucus Coordinator, please re-submit your application before the new deadline. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.*

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 16, 2009. [Read More...](#)

Announcements

RCEN Report: Results of National ENGO Survey on Biodiversity

In January and February, the RCEN conducted a survey to solicit the views of Environmental NGOs (ENGOS) with respect to progress on biodiversity protection, challenges, lessons learned and biodiversity priorities in the post-2010 period. The survey was conducted for Environment Canada's Biodiversity Convention Office, and a summary of the survey results will be included in the 4th National Report on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be released this June. An online questionnaire was used to gather the opinions of 128 ENGOS from across Canada. In terms of progress on biodiversity protection, half of respondents answered that the Canadian government has achieved limited to no progress on reducing biodiversity loss in Canada. To read the Report, prepared by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, [please click here](#).

Students on Ice - International Polar Year Arctic Scholarships 2009

Students on Ice is thrilled to offer ten fully-funded high school student positions to participate on the upcoming Students on Ice – IPY Arctic Expedition 2009 from July 29th to August 13th, 2009. Six of these positions are designated for northern aboriginal youth and four are designated for non-aboriginal youth from across Canada. The ship-based expedition will explore southern Baffin Island, Nunavut and the northern reaches of Nunavik. The students will travel on this educational expedition together with a team of 75 international students and 35 world-renowned scientists, environmentalists and polar educators. The deadline for student applications is April 24th. Interested students are invited to contact apply@studentsonice.com to request an application form or if they have any questions. More information is available at www.studentsonice.com.

Earth Day Canada's Hometown Heroes Award Program

The Hometown Heroes Award Program, established by Earth Day Canada in 2004, recognizes and celebrates environmental leaders who foster meaningful, long-term community awareness and action. Become Canada's 2009 environmental hero and receive a cash-prize of \$10,000 - \$5,000 to keep and \$5,000 to donate to the environmental cause of your choice. Earth Day Canada will consider candidates who: demonstrate outstanding environmental leadership, commitment and achievements in their communities; and carry out not-for-profit environmental efforts, with notable accomplishments in the past two years or a single outstanding environmental

initiative in 2008. Nominate yourself, an individual or group from your community by Earth Day 2009. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.earthday.ca/hometown/index.php>.

Action Alerts

Sierra Club of Canada - Ensure that the *Climate Change Accountability Act* Becomes Law

On April 1, Members of Parliament came together to support [Bill C-311](#), the *Climate Change Accountability Act*. The bill passed second reading, with 141 votes in favour and 128 against. If Bill C-311 passes third reading and it is approved by the Senate, it will commit Canada to firm targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The bill incorporates recommendations of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Sierra Club need your help to ensure that the *Climate Change Accountability Act* becomes law. [Click here to learn how you can help.](#)

Resources

Accessible Website Authoring Tool for Everyone

Non-profit groups often put off creating a website for many reasons, but there is a way to overcome all of these problems. The *Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group* has set up a website using a cheap, effective on-line authoring tool that anyone can use. There is no longer the need for specialized knowledge or for anyone to be 'in charge' of the website. These tools allow a group to create a website using a simple on-line editor. The *Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group* uses editme.com, which costs \$75 per year. Visit the group's new website at <http://hwcg.editme.com> to see the results, and then visit <http://editme.com> to sign up. Note that the *Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group* is not connected to editme.com but is promoting this tool because it might be of interest to RCEN members.

Employment

East Coast Environmental Law - Executive Director

The East Coast Environmental Law Association (ECE LAW) is seeking a new Executive Director for its Halifax office. The Executive Director will be responsible for the overall development, management, administration, representation and organization of all activities, initiatives, programs and affairs including but not limited to the following: law & advocacy - program planning and implementation; Communications and public relations; and operations and administration. The ideal candidate will have: management and organizational experience; strong communications skills; and experience with public relations, among other qualifications. The deadline to apply for this position is June 1st, 2009. For more details about this job opportunity, please visit www.ecelaw.ca.