

RCEN e-Bulletin – March 11th, 2009 Edition

Network News

Ontario Bans Cosmetic Pesticides

Taking effect on April 22nd, [Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban](#) will prevent over 250 pesticides from being used for cosmetic purposes on lawns, vegetable and ornamental gardens, patios, driveways, cemeteries, and in parks and school yards. The provincial ban supersedes local municipal pesticides bylaws to create one clear, transparent and understandable set of rules across the province. With last week's announcement, Canada's most populous province now joins Quebec in banning the use of cosmetic pesticides. See this week's *Action Alert* to voice your support for strong regulations in your province.

Environmental Enforcement Act introduced by Government

If you missed the news, last week the Federal Government introduced Bill C-16 *The Environmental Enforcement Act*, which proposes to amend the fines, sentencing provisions and enforcement tools of six Environment Canada administered statutes and three Parks Canada administered statutes. The Bill also introduces a new Act – the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Act*, which would authorize the use of administrative monetary penalties for infractions under several environmental Acts. An overview of the Bill is available at www.ec.gc.ca.

Calls for Participation

A Sense of Wonder Film: Join the 100-City Tour

In March 2009, the National Women's History Project in the US is honouring women who have taken the lead in the environmental movement, and they are putting special emphasis on the pioneering work of Rachel Carson. In conjunction with their campaign to raise awareness about women and the environment, they are coordinating a 100-City tour of *A Sense of Wonder*, a film about Rachel Carson's love of the natural world and her fight to defend it. The tour will be stopping at universities, libraries, theatres, farms, and other organizations across North America in March. A few Canadian screenings are already finalized, but not many. If you are interested in hosting one of these stops, please visit www.asenseofwonderfilm.com. You can also visit the website to find out more about the campaign, or watch a clip of the film.

Announcements

Delegate Selection - Strategizing Session for a CSD Policy Concept Paper

The RCEN has been invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs Canada to select seven (7) ENGO groups to participate in the development of a Policy Concept Paper leading up to the seventeenth Commission for Sustainable Development cycle (CSD-17) from May 4-15, 2009. The selected delegates are: Nikki Skuce, Forest Ethics; Ella Haley, Ecological Farmers of Ontario; Douglas Gook, FORPA Forest Protection Allies; Rick Morrel, Saskatchewan Environmental Society; Emmanuel Prinnet, One Earth Initiative; Linda Varangu, My Sustainable Canada; Carolyn Webb, CIELAP. Selected ENGOs will participate in a teleconference call in March (date to be determined) to prepare a Policy Concept Paper. [More information...](#)

EPIC Sustainable Living Expo

Vancouver's largest and only green living tradeshow and eco-marketplace returns for 2009 at the new Vancouver Convention Centre. Join this three-day celebration of smart living and surround yourself with over 300 exhibitors, inspiring ideas, exciting entertainment and forward-thinking businesses. EPIC is a solutions-based, family-oriented event, designed to educate and entertain. The vent attracts a diverse range of companies who focus on social and ecological sustainability, allowing over 15,000 consumers to learn from top eco-educators and make choices that help sustain their lifestyles, leaving a softer footprint on earth. EPIC features the latest eco-trends in: Business & Technology, Community, Fashion, Food & Beverage, Health & Beauty, Home & Garden, Leisure and Transportation. Visit www.epicvancouver.com for more information.

Action Alerts

David Suzuki Foundation - Weed Out Pesticides in Your Province

Keeping unnecessary lawn and garden pesticides off store shelves is the best way to stop their use. That's why the David Suzuki Foundation is working to ban both their sale and use in provinces across Canada. With Ontario and Quebec banning unnecessary lawn and garden pesticides, and New Brunswick considering similar action, there is great promise for similar bans across the country. Voice your support now for strong regulations in your province. Visit http://www.davidsuzuki.org/health/food/Ontario_Legislation.asp to tell your Premier that you want strong protections against the health risks of lawn and garden pesticides.

Resources

Prevent Cancer Now's Anti-Incineration Tool Kit

A comprehensive cancer prevention strategy means reducing exposure to carcinogenic and toxic substances at every opportunity. Prevent Cancer Now's "Anti-Incineration Tool Kit" is designed to inform you about the health impacts of municipal incineration, to provide an overview of other concerns with incineration and to introduce the concept of Zero Waste - a sustainable and healthier long-term materials management strategy. The tool kit also provides links to other documents and organizations as well as to a list of groups and individuals who are opposing incineration and/or advocating for Zero Waste in Canada. Prevent Cancer Now also urges you to sign their Position Statement and inform municipal, provincial and federal politicians of your concerns about waste incineration. Visit <http://preventcancernow.ca/main/issues-actions/stop-incineration> for more information.

Events

2009 Pitch-In Week: Operation Clean Sweep

Pitch-In Canada's *Operation Clean Sweep* is a week-long event running from April 20-26. Youth groups, schools, businesses, local governments, and organizations are invited to participate by undertaking local clean-up, beautification, and improvement projects such as habitat restoration, illegal dumpsite clean-ups, improving business areas, tree planting, and shoreline cleanups. Participation is free. Registered groups will receive free materials including specially imprinted garbage and recycling bags for their clean-up and beautification projects. There are two new contests this year: Heaviest Litter Collection and Most Unusual Find! Visit www.pitch-in.ca to register and to learn more about the event.

4th National Stewardship & Conservation Conference

Registration is now open for the 4th National Stewardship & Conservation Conference, 'Strengthening Stewardship - Investing at Every Step'. The event, to be held in Calgary from July 8-11, is where Canada's stewards meet to discuss emerging issues and develop solutions for the best possible stewardship of Canada's environment. The program will open with a summary of the State of Stewardship in Canada report, and conclude with gaps and remedial actions required. This year's conference will chart a roadmap for supporting, recognizing and integrating stewardship into the way we live and do business in Canada. Register now for the chance to win a trip to Banff. For more information, please visit www.stewardship2009.ca.