

RCEN e-Bulletin – November 12th, 2009 Edition

Network News

Youth Eco Internships at the RCEN

The RCEN is pleased to offer two internship opportunities to Canadian youth between the ages of 15 and 30. Through the YMCA/YWCA's Youth Eco Internship Program, we are seeking one Youth Caucus Intern and one Biodiversity Caucus Intern to support these growing caucuses. Both positions will be based in Ottawa.

For details related to these positions, go to <http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/jobs.html>. The deadline for applications is November 20th, 2009.

A Snapshot of ENGO Biodiversity Activities in Canada

Read about some of the great biodiversity-related activities happening across the country! From Newfoundland to the Yukon, environmental NGOs have sent us examples of their most innovative work related to the conservation, sustainable use, and awareness of biodiversity. These submissions from RCEN members were gathered during our "Pan-Canadian Biodiversity Best Practices/Case Studies Contest". [Read More ...](#)

Our Ottawa Office has moved!

Please note that the RCEN National Office has moved. Our mailing address is now: 39 McArthur Avenue, Level 1-1 Ottawa ON K1L 8L7. Thank you for updating your lists.

Calls for Participation

EcoLogo Seeking Comments on Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Products Standard under Review

EcoLogo is releasing to stakeholders the second draft of the Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Products Standard, CCD-003. Stakeholder engagement is an essential component in the review of stringent EcoLogo standards. The EcoLogo Program is reaching out to interested individuals and organizations who want to participate in the review of this environmental leadership standard, and therefore actively seeking feedback from environmental NGOs familiar with this product group. The EcoLogo Program has created these surveys to bring specific issues of concern to the broader stakeholder base, and to increase the convenience and ease with which you can submit feedback. This stakeholder consultation period is open until November 27, 2009. For all information regarding the review of the Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Products Standard, visit <http://www.terrachoice-certified.com/en/criteria/revision/>.

Announcements

Fall Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development

On November 3rd, Scott Vaughan, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, released his 2009 Fall Report to Parliament. In it, the Commissioner looks at the application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, risks associated with toxic

substances and the National Pollutant Release Inventory. Some of the key findings of the Report include: First Nations reserves have less environmental protection than other Canadian communities; long-standing problems impair environmental assessment; serious risks of toxic substances require more vigilance; and that environmental petitioners are still concerned about health, biodiversity, fish habitat. The Report is available on-line at http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_200911_e_33253.html.

New CEC study to provide roadmap for sustainable freight transportation

The Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has embarked on a new study to evaluate opportunities for making freight transportation more sustainable in North America. The transportation sector contributes about 26% of total greenhouse gas emissions in North America. At least a quarter of that share is related to transporting freight. To assist the Secretariat, an advisory group of representatives from transportation industries, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies will evaluate scenarios for improving the environmental performance of freight transportation by 2030 and recommend policy pathways to achieve those goals. This study will consider input from interested members of the public. The final report is expected by mid-2010. More information can be found at: www.cec.org/freight.

Delegate Selection – Bisphenol A Proposed Regulations Consultation

The RCEN has selected 5 Environmental NGO delegates to take part in a one-day consultation to discuss the proposed regulatory provisions to limit the concentration of Bisphenol A released from industrial final effluent. The consultation will take place on November 27, 2009 in Toronto, ON. The selected ENGO delegates are: Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba; Josh Brandon, Resource Conservation Manitoba; Mary Richardson, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca; Sheila Cole, Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia; and Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association. [More information](#)

Action Alerts

Moms Against Climate Change - Take Three Minutes. Make Your Kids Proud

You have the power to improve the future for your kids. Too young to vote, they will have to deal with the worst effects of global warming - unless we change direction. The good news is we can. Canada is one of the top 10 global warming polluters on the planet. It's time to clean up our act. Join other Canadian parents. Take three minutes to post a photo of your child at www.MomsAgainstClimateChange.com. Remind Prime Minister Stephen Harper exactly who he's representing at the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December. *Moms Against Climate Change* is a partnership of Environmental Defence and ForestEthics.

Resources

Global Forest Watch – New Reports on Tar Sands Impacts in Alberta

Global Forest Watch Canada has released two new reports related to the Alberta tar sands. The first one, entitled *Bitumen and Biocarbon*, provides estimates of land use changes, biological carbon content and consequent potential greenhouse emissions due to existing and future surface mining and in situ extraction of bitumen in Alberta. The second report, *Does the Alberta Tar Sands Industry Pollute? The Scientific Evidence*, finds that present levels of some contaminants in northeastern Alberta pose an ecosystem or human health risk, the effects of which deserve immediate and systematic study, and that projected tripling of activities over the

next decade may result in unacceptably large and unforeseen impacts to biodiversity, ecosystem function, and public health. These two reports are available for free at <http://www.globalforestwatch.ca/>.

Book: PolisProject - *Making the Most of the Water We Have*

According to the Polis Project, *Making the Most of the Water We Have* is the first book anywhere in the world to comprehensively present and apply the water soft path approach. By focusing on a series of case studies at the provincial (Ontario), watershed (Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia) and the urban and community scale across Canada, the authors demonstrate the viability of a soft path analysis and a backcasting approach in the context of sustainable water resource management. It demonstrates that soft path analysis is both analytical and practical, and emphasizes that Soft paths are not only conceptually attractive, but can also be economically and politically feasible. Authored by David Brooks, Oliver Brandes, and Stephan Gurman, the book is available to order at <http://www.poliswaterproject.org/publications>.

Environmental Leaders Reveal Their Best HR Practices

As environmental organizations struggle to retain top talent, prepare for the retirement of the baby boomers, and face the challenges of an uncertain economy—the need to develop effective recruitment and retention practices is becoming a top priority. ECO Canada’s HR Best Practices Report highlights innovative human resource strategies used by Canadian environmental organizations to promote employee engagement. Categorized according to six HR practice areas, this report presents valuable insight while acknowledging several challenges unique to the environment industry, such as contexts for learning, organization structures, and types of projects and workload. To purchase the report, or for more information, please [click here](#).

Events

WWF Canada - Are we giving up Ice for Oil?

Authors Andrew Nikiforuk and Ed Struzik initiate debate about the fate of the Arctic across Canada in this cross-country speaking tour. Join them as they discuss how the melting of Arctic sea ice and the exploitation of the Alberta tar sands are connected, and how they are shaping Canada’s future. This tour, hosted by WWF Canada, aims to stimulate debate among Canadians about the choices and consequences - political, cultural, economic and environmental - involved in how we develop the tar sands and respond to a changing Arctic. These free events will take place in cities from St. John’s to Montreal, now until November 20th. For more information, visit <http://www.wwf.ca/index.cfm>.

Faith, Life and Technology: Symposium on Biotechnology

The Canadian Council of Churches celebrates 10 years of biotechnology, theology and ethics. Join them to discern the theological, ethical and policy challenges for the next decade. Themes to be discussed include “Medical Applications and Emerging Technologies” and “Ecology and Agriculture”. The symposium will take place on December 3-4, 2009 at The United Church of Canada General Council Offices in Toronto. Registration for the event is \$50. Please register by email with Peter Noteboom at noteboom@ccc-cce.ca before November 17th.

Employment

Canadian Council for International Co-operation - Administrative Assistant

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) is seeking an Administrative Assistant for its Communications and Organizational Development Teams. The Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing administrative and organizational support to the teams. In addition, the Assistant will provide administrative and logistical support to program events, and develop and maintain administrative systems to support internal communication. The candidate will have a relevant college diploma or equivalent; minimum of two years relevant administrative and office experience; and be bilingual. The application deadline is December 1, 2009. For more information, visit http://www.ccic.ca/resources/jobs_e.php.