

## RCEN e-Bulletin – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Edition

### Network News

Join your colleagues in Edmonton this June

Members of the RCEN are invited to attend the 2009 Annual General Assembly, which will take place in Edmonton, from June 12-14. The AGA is a great opportunity for environmental organizations, big and small, to meet and exchange ideas and experiences in a relaxed environment.

The theme of this year's AGA is "Cities and Biodiversity". Several presentations and workshops will highlight the important relationship between cities and biodiversity. RCEN Caucus members will also hold several meetings to discuss challenges and successes of the past year, while planning activities for 2009-10.

Members of the Network receive a discounted rate when they register online. Spaces are limited, so please register soon, before the May 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. Visit [www.rcen.ca/AGA/2009/index.htm](http://www.rcen.ca/AGA/2009/index.htm) for more information.

### Calls for Delegates

Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Steering Committee – ENGO Member

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 22, 2009. [Read More...](#)

### Other Calls

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...](#)

### Announcements

McMaster University – Diploma in Environmental Health

Environmental Health is a challenging field of research and policy that links the natural, health and social sciences and the worlds of academia, business, labour, government and community groups. McMaster University's Diploma in Environmental Health will provide skills and knowledge for understanding and professional practice in an interconnected world, and is designed to provide new and/or upgraded skills and knowledge to individuals with a university degree or certification in a relevant field. It is suitable for public health unit professionals, physicians, community health nurses, environmental industrial professionals and those in labour and NGOs dealing with environmental health issues. This is an online program which uses Elluminate Live! and WebCT. For details, please visit [www.mcmaster.ca/mieh](http://www.mcmaster.ca/mieh).

## Action Alerts

Sign-on to letter urging the Government to Support the Listing of 9 new POPs for Elimination

The Canadian Environmental Law Association and Reach for Unbleached, are seeking Canadian ENGOs to sign-on to a letter urging the Canadian Government to support the listing of 9 new Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) for elimination under the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Please read the [letter](#) addressed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the [Backgrounder](#) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (and the Stockholm Convention on POPs). If you have any questions, regarding this action alert, please contact Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association ([deleonf@cela.ca](mailto:deleonf@cela.ca)) or Delores Broten, Reach for Unbleached! ([dbroten@rfu.org](mailto:dbroten@rfu.org)). The deadline for sign-on is Monday, April 20th.

## Resources

The Lorax Society – Celebrating Environmental Activism

Canada is home to some of the greatest environmental advocates in the world, yet a shockingly small number of these citizens have ever been honoured for their important contributions to Canada. Why? Perhaps because these awards (i.e. Order of Canada) are based on nomination – unless someone's name is put forward by their colleagues, they cannot be considered. *The Lorax Society* has created a website to help the environmental community better recognize the heroes in our midst and to help activists nominate their colleagues for awards. Please visit [www.loraxsociety.com](http://www.loraxsociety.com) to review the resources available and to consider nominating a colleague for recognition as fine example of what a citizen should be.

Francophone Network for Environmental Associations

The *Réseau Francophone pour les Associations Ecologistes* (REFAE) is a free digital networking tool that allows francophone environmentalists to communicate with citizens interested in issues of ecology, sustainable development and environment. The REFAE is a free non-binding tool for associations and registered members. It is centered on 4 services: a detailed directory, an articles and events publication, an employment service and a call for proposals service. The REFAE is one of the services offered under the Program to support civil society developed by Anciela, a French environmental association. To discover the REFAE, and other services, please visit <http://www.refae.org> (in French).

## Events

Climate Action Network – Climate Justice Events in April

The Climate Action Network will be holding a series of climate justice related events in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto from April 20-22. Two climate justice seminars will feature the release of a report on Canada's obligation to help developing countries adapt to climate change and deploy clean energy technologies. The keynote presentation will be provided by Tom Athanasiou, Director of the U.S.-based organization EcoEquity. Speakers at two public forums on climate justice will also feature Sven Teske of Greenpeace International, and Dave Martin, Climate Change Director of Greenpeace Canada. Help CAN-Canada celebrate Earth Day by attending these events! More information is available at [www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/issues/climate-justice/](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/issues/climate-justice/).