

## RCEN e-Bulletin – February 17, 2010 Edition

### Network News

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter

Whether you're a Facebook junkie or a manic tweeter, the RCEN wants to connect with you. We don't judge. Visit our Facebook page to view RCEN photos and videos, start a discussion on an environmental issue in your area or post a message on our wall. Fan us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Canadian-Environmental-Network/465150565374>.

Maybe you prefer to communicate 140 characters at a time? Visit our Twitter feed to get the latest RCEN news and be the first to hear about new reports, environmental events, green jobs and more. Follow us at <http://twitter.com/RCEN>.

Old Planet, New Actions: Discover the Youth Caucus' Newsletter

That's right - the RCEN Youth Caucus now has its own newsletter! Intended for young Canadians under thirty, 'Old Planet, New Actions' shares the latest information on youth-friendly environmental initiatives across Canada and beyond. Sign up today by sending an email to [marie-pierre@cen-rce.org](mailto:marie-pierre@cen-rce.org). Want a sneak peek before signing up? No problem, [click here](#) to read the latest edition.

Biodiversity Hotspots: Graveyard of the North Atlantic...or not?

Sable Island, a remote sandbar island 150km off the Nova Scotian Coast, has been dubbed the "graveyard of the North Atlantic" because of the over 350 shipwrecks it has caused. While humans and some of our favourite furry mammals have not had much luck living on the island, it is home to 17 plant species and 600 invertebrates! [Read more](#)

RCEN 2010 Annual Conference

["Conserving Biodiversity Pays: The Values of Ecosystem Services"](#)

September 17-19, Montreal, QC

### Calls for Delegates

Seeking ENGO Participation in International Biodiversity Day Activities

The RCEN has been invited by Environment Canada to select thirteen lead environmental NGO groups in each province and territory to carry out outreach and education activities for the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) on May 22, 2010. This year's IDB theme is "Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation"; however, activities are not limited to this theme. Selected ENGOs will collaborate with the RCEN Biodiversity Caucus and Environment Canada's Ecosystems and Biodiversity Priorities Division to: prepare IDB Outreach plans; carry out outreach and education activities based on outreach plans; write a final report on completed outreach and education activities. The deadline for applications is February 22, 2010. [More information](#)

ENGO Participation in the Food Regulatory Advisory Committee

Health Canada has invited the RCEN to select one ENGO delegate to participate in the Food Regulatory Advisory Committee (FRAC). This multi-stakeholder committee will provide Health Canada's Food Directorate (FD) with broad expert strategic policy advice on the safety of food products. The FRAC will also provide advice on matters relating to strategic planning, priority-setting and environmental scanning of issues related to food safety, nutritional quality or other issues related to the FD's mandate. It is anticipated that the committee will meet twice a year and that the first meeting will occur in May 2010. The deadline for applications is March 3, 2010. [More information](#)

#### Parks Canada's National Assessment of Mountain Biking

Parks Canada has invited the RCEN to select three ENGO delegates to participate in their National Assessment of Mountain Biking, which will take place in Ottawa from March 23-25. The purpose of this assessment is to develop national guidelines regarding various mountain biking practices in national parks, marine conservation areas and national historic sites. Close to 40 participants will attend the workshop, including Parks Canada staff representing different fields of expertise, field specialists, partners, mountain biking groups and associations, equipment suppliers, companies who manage the activity and ENGOs. The deadline for applications is March 8, 2010. [More information](#)

#### **Other Calls**

##### Call for Stakeholder Input: OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises Review

The Government of Canada is in the process of developing its position on the terms of reference of a possible review of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. This is the first phase of a twofold consultation process. Should the Investment Committee of the OECD decide to proceed with a review of the Guidelines, based on adhering countries' consensus, a second consultations round will take place. Towards the development of its position, the Government of Canada seeks stakeholders' views regarding the terms of reference which would frame an eventual OECD Guidelines review. The deadline for sharing your views is February 26, 2010. Visit <http://www.international.gc.ca/> for more information.

##### CSD Outreach Session on Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and SCP

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada is organizing an outreach session with civil society representatives to inform the Canadian participation at the 18th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18). The outreach will take place by way of teleconference on February 25th. CSD-18 will be held in New York from May 3 - 14, 2010 and will focus on the themes of Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and Sustainable Consumption and Production. Your organization's participation in the outreach session will provide the opportunity to discuss Canadian priorities, which at the federal level, are being developed through an interdepartmental committee composed of lead federal departments. [More information](#)

#### **Announcements**

##### Green Budget Coalition Prioritizes 3 Budget Actions: for Biodiversity, Water & Energy

In light of the Prime Minister's invitation for input on the upcoming federal budget, the Green Budget Coalition has highlighted its three priority budget recommendations, whose adoption

could stimulate over 8,000 new jobs in renewable energy, ensure clean sources of drinking water for millions of Canadians, and help Canada meet its commitment under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to establish national and regional systems of protected areas. The Green Budget Coalition's 3 priority recommendations for the 2010 federal budget are: 1) Protecting Ecosystems and Biodiversity; 2) Investing in Canada's Freshwater Future; and 3) Re-investing in Renewable Energy. Read more at <http://greenbudget.ca/>.

#### Delegate Selection – Researcher-Writer and Editor for a CSD ENGO Priorities Paper

The RCEN has selected two delegates to coordinate the development of a Canadian ENGO Priorities Paper in advance of the eighteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) from May 3-14, 2010. We have selected one Researcher-Writer and one Editor to complete the paper during the month of February. The selected writer-researcher is: Randy Christensen, Ecojustice Canada; the selected editor is Carolyn Webb, CIELAP. [More information](#)

#### Delegate Selection - Renewal of the Federal Agenda for the Reduction of VOCs from Consumer and Commercial Products

The RCEN has selected delegates to participate in an Environment Canada consultation meeting concerning new proposals to limit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in consumer and commercial products. The meeting will be held in Toronto from March 3-4. The selected RCEN delegates are: Quentin Chiotti, Pollution Probe; Sheila Cole, EHANS; Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba; Bruno Marcocchio, Sierra Club Atlantic; Dorothy Wigmore, Resource Conservation Manitoba; and the alternate is Dave Stevens, CHOKED. In addition, Nadia Chowdhury, Sierra Youth Coalition Regional Action Committee, has been selected to participate as a youth delegate. [More information](#)

#### Resources

Docs Talk: A blog on your health and the environment

How is climate change a health issue? How do our energy choices impact health? Why are health professionals concerned about pesticides? *Docs Talk* is a new monthly blog that brings you a medical perspective on current environmental issues and the implications for your health. A joint project of the David Suzuki Foundation and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, *Docs Talk* features commentary by physicians and medical researchers. Check it out at <http://beta.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/docs-talk/>.

#### Canadian School Eco-Fundraising Program

The Canadian Public Employee Acquisition Club has developed a program that offers Canadian schools the unique opportunity to fundraise while promoting discussion on the environment across the classroom, family and community arenas. The Canadian School Eco-Fundraising Program works on multiple levels to deliver age appropriate curriculum, carbon neutrality for participating schools and much needed funds for Canadian schools and classrooms. By discussing and involving the students directly in the fundraising program, we are able to stimulate discussion and cascade information on the environment between students and teachers, child and parent, and friends and neighbours. To view the centralized porthole which will be personalized on behalf of the individual schools and their fundraising events, follow this link:

<http://cpeac.org/ecofundraising>. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.cpeac.org/>.

### New Report on “The Challenges of Environmental Mainstreaming”

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is pleased to announce the publication of a new report, entitled “The challenges of environmental mainstreaming: Experiences of integrating environment into development institutions and decisions”. The report is an initial synthesis of IIED’s work with partners in 13 developing countries. It reviews the rapidly changing context and challenges to environmental mainstreaming, discusses what it takes to achieve effective mainstreaming, and provides a roadmap for selecting operational methods and tools. It explores the current emphasis on getting environmental issues reflected in key government processes – notably development plans, poverty reduction strategies and national budgets. This publication can be downloaded along with over 4,000 other resources, from the IIED website at [www.iied.org/pubs](http://www.iied.org/pubs).

### Ideal North’s Online ENGO Donation Program

Ideal North - a Canadian based distributor and retailer of fine “animal friendly” alternative products – has set up an online shopping mall with a built in donation program for environmental organizations. The criteria for this new service solution are that: 1) no non-profit organization will carry any risk, cost or inventory to participate; 2) Ideal North must always preserve the organization’s corporate image, help generate revenue, and expand their networks. Organizations can participate by having their organization listed on the Ideal North website as a participant that will allow donations to be made to them and/or additionally, a catalogue of products can be built that includes their organization’s logo. For more details about this initiative, visit <http://www.idealnorth.com/>.

### Events

#### Start Organizing for the 2012 Earth Summit

Twenty years after the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the 1992 Earth Summit hosted by Brazil was held in Rio de Janeiro to address the environmental component in international development. Last December, the United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted, once again, by Brazil. The major focus is on human and environmental security. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. Visit <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/> for the latest information on the 2012 Earth Summit.

### Employment

#### ForestEthics – Climate Director

ForestEthics is currently seeking an energetic and creative Climate Director to lead its Climate Program in Canada. The successful applicant will oversee a passionate team of campaign, communications and outreach staff working on the organization’s Tar Sands and Sacred Headwaters campaigns and Climate Solutions work. As an inspiring leader, you will develop, implement and administer the Climate Program vision and plan; communicate your work to internal and external audiences; provide leadership and manage staff; and build relationships with different stakeholders and key opinion leaders. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated

track record as a change agent, with at least eight years of relevant work experience. This position will remain open until filled. For more information, visit <http://www.forestethics.org/jobs>.