

RCEN e-Bulletin – March 17th, 2010 Edition

Network News

Reactions to the 2010 Budget

Since being tabled on March 4th, the [2010 Federal Budget](#) has been widely discussed within the environmental NGO community, with many groups expressing disappointment, several calling it a missed opportunity and others highlighting some positive investments for the environment.

For informational purposes, the RCEN has assembled a list of responses to the 2010 Budget and what it means for the environment, environmental assessments and non-profits in general. [Read more](#)

Biodiversity Hotspot #4: In a World Where Intact Wilderness is Rare

The Yukon's Peel River watershed is one of the largest and most beautiful intact natural areas left in North America. Most of the 68,000 km² watershed is pristine, and is home to species that are rare or threatened elsewhere. The watershed is also an ancient cultural landscape and an important fish and wildlife harvesting area for First Nations. Mining and oil and gas extraction threaten to fragment this stunning landscape and harm its delicate ecological balance. [Read more](#)

Youth Caucus Logo Contest

The RCEN Youth Caucus is looking for a new logo - you can help...and win big! The deadline for submissions is April 5th. [Read more](#)

Calls for Delegates

Policy Dialogue on the Way Forward on Climate Change Internationally

Climate Action Network Canada and the RCEN are conducting a delegate selection for a one-day policy dialogue on the way forward on climate change internationally organized by IISD in Ottawa on March 30, 2010. The policy dialogue will focus on two issues: moving forward on the Copenhagen Accord and continuing momentum on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and agriculture. There is a total of \$5000 in funding available to help some participants cover travel costs associated with this dialogue. The deadline to apply is March 19, 2010. [More information](#)

ENGO International Year of Biodiversity Champions

The RCEN is seeking one ENGO delegate from each province and territory (except New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), as well as one youth and one aboriginal delegate to be International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) Champions. Throughout 2010, the selected IYB Champions will: participate in two teleconferences; prepare a short report on what work ENGOs in their region or constituencies are doing on biodiversity; and promote IYB, and biodiversity activities in their region or within their constituencies. The ENGO IYB Champions will be compensated \$350 for the work, which must be completed by early 2011. The deadline to apply is March 17, 2010. [More information](#)

Announcements

Survey on Chemical Exposures and Women's Health

The National Network on Environments and Women's Health, in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Health Network, is conducting a survey on people's daily exposures to chemicals. They are trying to gather information from as broad a range of people in Canada as possible, with a particular interest in responses from women. The survey will be online until March 24th. Please fill it in and encourage others to do so as well (it only takes a few minutes). The results from the survey, which will be submitted to Health Canada, will be published on later this spring. Please complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PBGRWGC>.

Delegate Selections

ENGO Participation in the Food Regulatory Advisory Committee

The RCEN has selected 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 selected ENGO delegate is Josh Brandon, Resource Conservation Manitoba. The alternate delegate is Gabrielle Kretzschmar, New Brunswick Partners in Agriculture. The first meeting of the FRAC will take place in May 2010. [More information](#)

Consultation on Pollution Prevention Planning Notice in respect to Toluene Diisocyanates

The RCEN has selected two ENGO delegates to participate in a consultation to discuss the development of the proposed Pollution Prevention Planning Notice for the Urethane and Miscellaneous Foam Sector (excluding Polystyrene), with focus on Toluene Diisocyanates. The selected ENGO delegates are Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association, and Mary Richardson, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca. The alternate delegate is Sandra Boswell, The Allergy & Environmental Illness Group. The consultation will take place on March 22 in Ottawa. [More information](#)

ENGO Participation in International Biodiversity Day Activities

The RCEN has selected 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". 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 and write a final report on these activities. [View the list of selected delegates](#)

Action Alerts

CBAN - Support Bill C-474 and Canada's Farmers! Take action today before 5pm

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) wants you to write a letter to your MP instantly from <http://www.cban.ca/474action>. Your concrete action could stop genetically

engineered (GE) seeds from causing chaos in Canadian farming. Bill C-474 would require that “an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted.” The Bill could stop GE alfalfa and GE wheat. This Bill is critically important because, as we know from experience, the introduction of new genetically engineered (GE) crops can cause economic hardship to farmers. Farmers are at risk when GE crops are commercialized in Canada without also being approved in our major export markets. For more action options and information see <http://www.cban.ca/474>.

Sierra Club Canada – Save the Blanding’s Turtle

Sierra Club Canada has recently launched a campaign against the proposed Terry Fox Drive Extension in Ottawa. According to SCC, this project is receiving federal and provincial stimulus money, but has not gone through the proper environmental assessment process. The road is being built through pristine wetlands and forests as well as through part of the Carp River Floodplain. In the area are several threatened and endangered species including the Blanding’s Turtle, Golden-winged Warbler, Butternut Tree, American Ginseng, and more. Already, more than 800 letters have been sent to the Ontario Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Natural Resources, urging them not to issue the permits to allow for this development to go through. Join the campaign at <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/endangered-species/save-blandings-turtle>.

Resources

International Year of Biodiversity Factsheets Now Available

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is pleased to inform you that 30 fact sheets for the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity are now available in on the CBD website at the following address: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/prints/?tab=5>. These fact sheets provide a brief synopsis on all the important issues related to CBD and the Biosafety Protocol. They also cover all possible domains that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and the role of biodiversity in development, ranging from science, politics and education to agriculture, business and culture.

Events

Webinar: Gender-bending and Environmental Justice

On March 18th, join the Canadian Women’s Health Network for a free webinar entitled “Gender-bending and Environmental Justice: The Way We Talk about Endocrine Disruption”. Dayna Nadine Scott, co-director of the National Network on Environments and Women’s Health, will discuss the environmental health effects of long-term, low-dose exposure to pollutants, with a focus on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation reserve near Sarnia, ON. This community, in the midst of Canada’s largest petro-chemical complex, has seen a drastic decline in male newborns in recent years. Please email info@cwhn.ca for registration information, or visit <http://www.cwhn.ca/en>.

Conference / Webcast - North America's Energy Market: Aligning Policies and Managing Carbon

On March 24th, an international forum in Vancouver will examine barriers to harmonization and comparability of renewable energy standards and definitions among Canada, Mexico and the United States, as well as discuss opportunities and challenges for carbon capture and storage technologies in the region. This event, organized by the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, is intended to encourage discussion around these critical issues and make specific recommendations to the Commission's Council,

the top environmental officials in North America's three countries. You are invited to participate in this unique event either in person or online via webcast, and discuss key issues related to public energy policies and the future of regional energy markets. Registration is free. Find out more at: www.cec.org/energy2010.

Summit on Biodiversity and the Greening of Montreal

The Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal is happy to announce the programming for the "Summit on Biodiversity and the Greening of Montreal", to be held on April 27 and 28 in Montreal. Speakers from Toronto, Chicago, Brussels, London and other major cities will present several major achievements in place in these cities, including the revitalization of large industrial areas in the development of parks and streams, and the protection of wetlands. These experts will showcase initiatives to protect the priceless biological heritage contained in our urban environments. The Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also present the issues of biodiversity and the challenges facing cities around the world. You can now consult the program and register online at www.cremtl.qc.ca/SBM (in French).

Employment

Pembina Institute - Technical Analyst (Vancouver Office)

The Pembina Institute is seeking a bright and resourceful individual with technical experience related to GHG management who is committed to advancing climate leaders in business within British Columbia and across Canada. The successful candidate will work closely with the Director of Climate Services and staff of the Consulting Program at Pembina to advance climate leaders and corporate sustainability initiatives across Canada. The work of the successful candidate will primarily focus on: identification of leading climate initiatives of small, medium, and large businesses; helping companies develop and implement climate strategies and associated targets; identification and evaluation of internal carbon reduction initiatives. The deadline for applications is March 29th, 2010. Visit <http://www.pembina.org/about/jobs> for more information.