

## RCEN e-Bulletin – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Edition

### Network News

The 2009 AGA will be a Green Event

Seeking to minimize its impact on the environment, the RCEN has decided to make its next Annual General Assembly a green event! The *Conseil Québécois des événements écoresponsables* agreed to provide a three-hour training session for some employees and members of the RCEN, so that they have the tools necessary to organize an AGA that respects the environment. You can learn more about the services offered by the organization by visiting [www.evenementecoresponsable.com](http://www.evenementecoresponsable.com).

Results from *Sharing Your Stories* Survey

Last month, we asked e-Bulletin readers to tell us how the RCEN could share members' stories, experiences and best practices. The votes are in, and 30% of respondents thought that written interviews of members would best serve their needs, while another 30% favoured digital story slide shows of member activities. Over the next few months, we will try to integrate both options to ensure that your stories are widely shared across the Network. More to come!

### Calls for Delegates

Youth Gathering to Discuss Youth Relations with Parks, Canadian Historic Landmarks and Heritage Sites

The RCEN has been invited by Parks Canada to select one (1) ENGO youth to participate in a youth gathering that will take place from April 4-5 in Gatineau, QC. This meeting, where 20 or so youth between the ages of 18 and 25 will participate, will focus on discussion of youth's relations with parks, Canadian historic landmarks and Heritage Sites. At the end of this gathering, recommendations will be made to Parks Canada and the Canadian Commission to UNESCO on how to best engage youth in these heritage sites. Travel, accommodation and meals incurred for the delegate's participation will be covered by Parks Canada. The deadline to apply is March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. [Read More...](#)

### Announcements

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators Initiative: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Environment Canada released the 4th annual results of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) Initiative. The CESI initiative provides indicators to track Canada's performance on three issues of concern to Canadians. National summary results of the 4th annual report are as follows:

- Air quality: Nationally, ground-level ozone exposure increased approximately 11% from 1990 to 2006. However, the increasing trend in annual ozone exposures has slowed in recent years.
- Water quality: Water quality at almost half of monitoring sites in southern Canada is rated as "good" or "excellent."
- Greenhouse gases: Emissions in 2006 were 22% higher than in 1990. Emissions peaked in 2004 at 743 megatonnes and then declined by 3% from 2004 to 2006.

The redesigned [CESI Initiative website](#) presents information in a more concise and less technical manner, identifies links to key social and economic pressures and drivers, as well as individual or household behaviour, enables viewing and searching of local and regional information via maps and, for the first time, compares Canada's performance with that of other selected countries. Environment Canada's CESI program encourages you to link to the website and share your thoughts on how CESI might evolve to better meet your needs by contacting [Indicateurs-Indicators@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Indicateurs-Indicators@ec.gc.ca).

#### Delegate Selection - Workshop to Examine Sulphur and Nitrogen Deposition Issues in Western Canada

The RCEN has selected two (2) ENGO delegates for a one and a half day workshop to examine sulphur and nitrogen deposition issues in western Canada. The workshop will take place in Banff, AB, from April 28-29, 2009. The selected delegates are: Anna Tilman, STORM Coalition, ON; Jennifer Grant, Pembina Institute, AB. Participants will: assess the state of the science on atmospheric deposition of sulphur and nitrogen and ecosystem impacts in Western Canada; develop an understanding of the implications of the latest science to current policies and programs aimed at addressing acid and nitrogen deposition; and identify areas for future concentration for Canada's acid rain science and policy efforts in western Canada. [Read more...](#)

#### Actions Alerts

##### Environmental Defence - Ban Bisphenol A in all Food and Beverage Containers

Bisphenol A has made front page news again, and this time the concern is over bisphenol A found in cans of pop and energy drinks. Recently, a study conducted by Health Canada found bisphenol A in 96% of all of the drink cans tested, including carbonated, non-carbonated, diet, non-diet, fruit-flavoured and energy drinks. With the spotlight now on bisphenol A in drink cans, we need to use this momentum to get rid of the harmful chemical in cans that many children drink from every day. Today please add your voice to the growing demand for government action. [Write and email the Ministers of the Environment and Health](#) and let them know that you want all food and beverage containers to be free of bisphenol A.

#### Resources

##### Briefing Note: Weakening Canada's Environmental Protection Laws

West Coast Environmental Law has prepared a clear and helpful briefing note explaining how legislative amendments to important environmental legislation will substantially weaken environmental protection, public rights to navigation and environmental assessment (EA) processes. Entitled *Weakening Canada's Environmental Protection Laws*, the 8-page document summarizes the current situation by explaining the importance of federal environmental assessment and the consequences of drastically reducing EA protections. The briefing note also proposes a set of solutions to EA issues that have been challenging for government. [Read the briefing note](#) or visit the Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus' web page for more EA related documents.

## Events

### Supply Chains and the Environment Conference

The Supply Chains and the Environment Conference will take place from May 25-26, in Calgary. The event aims to offer practical, timely solutions shared by business, not-for-profit and academic leaders on sustainable supply chain strategies that can make a difference to the corporate bottom line while reducing environmental impacts. Keynote speakers at the conference include: Peter Robinson, CEO, David Suzuki Foundation; Andrew Winston, Co-author, 'Green to Gold'; and Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon, University of Waterloo. Delegates will be encouraged to sign up for one of the tours of leading edge supply chain examples and to participate in discussions generated by the speakers. Please visit [www.supplychainsenvironment.ca](http://www.supplychainsenvironment.ca) for more information.

### Sustainability Network Workshop - Managing in Tough Times

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, The Sustainability Network will be holding a workshop entitled *Managing in Tough Times: the economic downturn and your non-profit*. With many organizations now concerned about their future, this workshop is intended to help you remove the "panic glasses" and move forward with practical tools and information. Participants will: review key factors affecting the performance and health of their organization; identify options so they can act from a place of strength rather than reaction; learn how to develop contingency plans; and identify who to involve and how to proceed to avoid carrying everything alone. Led by Andy Robinson, this workshop will take place in Toronto. Participants are asked to register at least two weeks prior to the event. Visit [www.sustainabilitynetwork.ca](http://www.sustainabilitynetwork.ca) for more information.