

RCEN e-Bulletin – August 18th, 2010 Edition

Network News

RCEN Annual Member Awards Kick Off

Nominate a fellow member today! Based on members' suggestions, last year the RCEN formed an Awards Committee to recognize significant achievements from RCEN members.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to recognize fellow members that have worked hard, inspired, motivated and helped you and the Network achieve great things.

- [Caucus Achievement Award](#)
- [Outstanding Participation Award](#)
- [Martha Kostuch Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [Board of Directors Award](#)

The awards will be handed out during the Gala Evening at the [RCEN 2010 Conference](#) on September 18th in Montreal. Nominations will be accepted until September 8th. [Read more](#)

Biodiversity Hotspot #12: Canadian Insects Love Maple Syrup Too!

A recent study out of Prince Edward Island collected and identified insect species that met their demise in traditional maple sap collecting buckets. The researchers, surprised at the biodiversity they found, identified 28 species in total: 8 species of moths, 18 beetle species and 2 caddisfly species, most of which had never been recorded in PEI before! [Read more](#)

Deputy Minister Change at Environment Canada

Last July, Prime Minister Harper announced changes in the senior ranks of the public service. The RCEN welcomes the appointment of Paul Boothe, who now becomes Deputy Minister of the Environment. Ian Shugart, formerly Deputy Minister of the Environment, is now Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

Announcements

JPAC Wants to Hear your Comments on the Proposed CEC Strategic Plan

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) wants to hear the opinions, comments and suggestions of the citizens of North America regarding the proposed 2010–2015 Strategic Plan of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The CEC Strategic Plan presents specific objectives to protect and improve the environment in North America through priorities defined by the CEC Council. These priorities are: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Climate Change – Low-Carbon Economies; Greening the Economy in North America. Based on comments received from the public, JPAC intends to provide formal advice to Council on the proposed 2010–2015 Strategic Plan. The deadline to submit comments in writing is September 2nd. The proposed plan is available for review at: <http://www.cec.org/strategicplan2010>.

CPAWS Launches Video Contest to *Celebrate Canada's Parks*

CPAWS is celebrating Canada's national parks! There are 42 of them. Pick one. Create a two-minute video about why that park is so amazing and you could be eligible to win a guided trip down the world-famous South Nahanni River, through the recently expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve, courtesy of Nahanni River Adventures. Valued at \$15,000, the coveted Nahanni trip is the top prize. But you could also win a video camera, national park passes, and gift certificates to Mountain Equipment Co-op. Post your video and encourage your networks to vote for it. For more details, visit www.celebrateparks.ca.

Alternative Journal – The Canadian Environmental Education Directory

Nowhere else will you find a more comprehensive directory of Canadian environmental programs! All universities and programs have their strengths and stories, and Alternatives Journal has made it quick and easy to compare them. Accenting the directory are fascinating stories of innovative education: find out who and what's pushing the envelope and building environmental education capacity to create leaders of tomorrow - leaders who know how to mesh environment, business and social justice for a healthier planet and a vibrant, equitable world economy. What are you waiting for? Subscribe to Alternatives today at <http://alternativesjournal.ca/subscribe>.

Delegate Selection - Agriculture Caucus Participation at the RCEN Conference

Thanks to funding from Agriculture Canada, the RCEN has selected 6 members of its Agriculture Caucus to participate in the [2010 RCEN Conference](#). The purpose of this funding is to ensure full engagement of environmental NGOs in discussions around the issues associated with agriculture and environment, as well as in a functional dialogue between practicing farmers engaged in environmental practices and Agriculture Canada. The selected participants are:

- Susan Black, Manitoba Organic Alliance, MB
- Bob Collins, Citizens' Stewardship Coalition, BC
- Shannon Hubert, Falls Brook Centre, NB
- Gabrielle Kretzschmar, New Brunswick Partners in Agriculture, NB
- Ruth Pryzner, Mixedwood Forest Society, MB
- Wayne Ungstad, Ponoka Fish and Game, AB

[More information](#)

Action Alerts

Environmental Defense – Sign on to Letter Opposing New Tar Sands Mine

The French oil company Total is applying for a new tar sands strip mine in Alberta. This is a significant event. There is a joint Canada-Alberta environmental assessment process to consider the application, and some groups will be 'going deep' as interveners to engage. Environmental Defense wants to provide the opportunity for all groups to go on record with their opposition to this proposal through a more general sign on letter that will be submitted formally to the process. Please consider signing onto this letter before the close of business on Friday, August 20th. This letter will be released publicly on the 24th. To sign on, please send your name, title, and organization to icarey@environmentaldefence.ca.

Resources

Biokits: Nature and Biodiversity Observation Guides for Everyone

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity, the Biosphère invites Canadian families and people of all ages to discover "BioKits," a series of biodiversity exploration guides. Attractive, colourful and fun, the BioKits are now available in five versions: Urban, Nature, City of Montréal, Île Sainte-Hélène and Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area. *Urban BioKit* users are invited to use all five of their senses to look at the biodiversity of their city in new ways. The *Nature BioKit* takes you on a journey of discovery through the wilder environments of the country. New BioKits will be developed during the year for other Canadian cities. For more information or to download them, visit www.ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits.

Environment Canada's Latest Indicator: Water Levels

Canada is a water-rich country, with its rivers and lakes accounting for 7% of the world's renewable freshwater. But even with all this water, shortages are a serious problem for regions of Canada where natural water supplies do not always meet human demand. Environment Canada's Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) are now measuring water levels. Read more about key findings at www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators/.

Jobs

Pembina Institute - Associate Director, Oil Sands

The Pembina Institute is seeking a seasoned and reputable environmental leader with experience in the oil sands industry to lead the oil sands related consulting activities of Pembina's Corporate Consulting Program. This includes developing and supporting leading edge consulting projects, building and managing client relations, and working with a highly committed and talented cross-functional team. The Associate Director, Oil Sands position will require you to understand environmental impacts and policy surrounding oil sands development, and need you to work collaboratively with government, industry, First Nations and other environmental organizations to advance solutions to the impacts associated with oil sands development. The deadline for applications is August 27th. For more information, visit www.pembina.org/about/jobs.

UQÀM - Professor, Environmental Economics

The Université du Québec à Montréal is looking for candidates qualified in environmental economics, economics of natural resources or economic ecology. The professor holding this position will be primarily attached to the Institute of Environmental Science, focusing on interdisciplinary approaches and critical analysis and be a member of the Department of Economics. Candidates must hold a PhD in economics, have a strong potential in research and teaching, and a mastery of French. The deadline for applications is September 20. Please send your resume, a letter of intent and three letters of recommendation to [Louise Vandelac](mailto:Louise.Vandelac@uqam.ca), directrice de l'Institut des sciences de l'environnement, with a copy to [Steven Pallage](mailto:Steven.Pallage@uqam.ca), directeur du département de sciences économiques.

University of Ottawa - Research Director, Sustainable Prosperity

The Research Director (RD) will be a senior staff member at the University's Institute for the Environment. A major focus of the position will be on the Sustainable Prosperity network, based at the Institute. In that role, the RD will: help identify policy-relevant research priorities; initiate and

coordinate research projects; and help to develop research funding proposals. The ideal candidate will possess: an advanced degree in a relevant field, such as environmental economics, policy, business, or law; relevant work experience managing research projects and developing partnerships; and significant research and writing experience. The deadline for applications is September 1st. Interested parties should send their cover letter and resume to [Jenna Dunsby](#), Coordinator.

CUSO-VSO - Climate Change Advisor

CUSO-VSO is currently seeking a Climate Change Advisor for a short-term position, with a possibility of extension. The Advisor will be based in Ottawa and work closely with a Climate Change working group comprised of staff from Canada, Costa Rica, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Over the 6-month period, the Advisor will support CUSO-VSO to: conduct a comprehensive audit of the organization's current and emerging programming related to climate change; and assess where the organization may be most effective in designing and implementing climate change-related programming in alignment with its corporate mission, goals, and approach. The Advisor will be required to undertake 2 to 3 visits to country program offices. The deadline for applications is August 15th. [More information](#)