

RCEN e-Bulletin – January 21st, 2009 Edition

Network News

A Guide to the Environmental Petitions Process

This week, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development announced the publication of [Getting Answers: A Guide to the Environmental Petitions Process](#). Readers who attended our 2008 AGA may recall meeting the current Commissioner, Mr Scott Vaughan. The federal environmental petitions process was established under the *Auditor General Act* to provide a formal means for Canadians to bring their concerns about environmental issues to the attention of federal ministers and departments. Ministers are required to respond in writing within 120 days.

This new 27-page guide explains the purpose and mechanics of the process, describes the scope of requests that can be made within petitions, and provides guidance on how to write and submit a well-designed petition.

Exploring Ways to Share Your Stories

This year, the RCEN is exploring new ways for members to share their stories and experiences with other environmental groups across Canada. Already, one member in Edmonton has suggested that we feature photo slide shows or a video wall on our website, showcasing each group's activities.

In February, we will post your suggestions in the e-Bulletin and let you vote on which ones you think are best. Take a moment to send us your ideas by emailing robert@cen-rce.org.

Calls for Delegates

Stakeholder Information Session on Risk Assessments under the Chemicals Management Plan – Workshop

Environment Canada (EC) and Health Canada (HC) are seeking two (2) Environmental NGO delegates to take part in a full one-day workshop to present and discuss processes and approaches to risk assessment and basis for conclusions under the Chemical Management Plan (CMP) Challenge initiative. The delegates will participate in a multi-stakeholder workshop in Ottawa on March 4, 2009. Travel and accommodation to and from this workshop will be reimbursed as per Treasury Board Guidelines and the RCEN will provide compensation for the provision of a 5-page report of the session. The deadline to apply is February 4, 2009. [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

Stakeholder Information Session on Risk Assessments under the Chemicals Management Plan – Teleconference

Environment Canada (EC) and Health Canada (HC) are seeking five (5) NGO delegates to take part in a teleconference call to answer questions raised by the participants in the Chemical Management Plan (CMP) Capacity Building Project (summer 2008) on approaches to risk assessment and basis for conclusions under the Challenge initiative. The delegates will meet by teleconference with EC and HC Risk Assessment Managers as soon as can be arranged (likely in early February). The deadline to apply is January 28, 2009. [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

ENGO Participation in International Biodiversity Day Activities

The RCEN has been invited by Environment Canada to select 11 lead ENGO groups in each province and in the Yukon Territory to conduct outreach and education activities for International Biodiversity Day (IBD) on May 22, 2009. This year's IBD theme will be "Invasive Alien Species". Selected ENGOs will collaborate with EC's Biodiversity Convention Office to: prepare IBD Outreach Plans, carry out Outreach and Education Activities in their respective regions, and write a Final Report. ENGO delegates will be compensated \$400 per Outreach Plan and participation in a conference call, and \$1200 to carry out activities and write the report. The deadline to apply is January 28, 2009. [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

ENGO Writer and Editor for Biodiversity Survey Summary

The RCEN is currently seeking two ENGO delegates, one to write and one to edit, a survey summary on biological diversity. Environment Canada's Biodiversity Convention Office has invited the RCEN to conduct a survey to solicit ENGO views with respect to progress, challenges, lessons learned and biodiversity priorities in the post-2010 period. The summary of survey results will be included in the 4th National CBD Report and will be presented and discussed at a multi-stakeholder meeting in Ottawa in March 2009. The ENGO writer of the summary will be compensated \$1500, while \$500 is available to compensate one ENGO editor. The deadline to apply is January 28, 2009. [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

Calls for Comments

Draft Canadian Priorities for the 17th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

The Government of Canada has recently drafted a stakeholder consultation paper outlining tentative Canadian government priorities to inform Canada's participation for the Seventeenth Session of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-17). This paper is at the stage of welcoming constructive suggestions and is available upon request by communicating with monique@cen-rce.org. If you are interested in sharing your views on this paper, the CSD-16 delegates and future CSD-17 delegates invite you to join the CSD Canada listserv by sending an email to csdcanada-subscribe@groups.takingitglobal.org.

25th Session of UNEP Governing Council

The 25th session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held from February 16-20, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. The agenda, as well as meeting documents for the session are available at <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc25/>. Until January 28th, Environment Canada is welcoming comments on key issues to be discussed at the meeting, including the GMEF, mercury, international environmental governance, the 4th Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and the International Science-based Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Comments or requests for more information should be directed to sylvie.cote@ec.gc.ca.

Global Public Policy Network on Water Management (GPPN)

The GPPN is seeking feedback from global stakeholders on key water-related issues in preparation for the [CSD-17](#), the [5th World Water Forum 2009](#), and the [COP-15](#). As such the

GPPN Secretariat has put together three briefing notes and questionnaires on the following areas:

- [Water as a Cross-cutting Issue for CSD-17](#)
- [Water Security in a Fragile Environment](#)
- [Water and Climate Change Adaptation](#)

The briefing notes are intended to orientate stakeholders regarding the issues – the questionnaire is designed to get your feedback on the critical priorities. The GPPN Secretariat will then compile the feedback from stakeholders and produce ‘key messages’ documents for decision-makers in each of the areas. The deadline for inputs is February 4, 2009. Please state clearly on the completed questionnaire which organization and stakeholder group (NGOs) you represent. Please send completed questionnaires to hstoddart@stakeholderforum.org at Stakeholder Forum.

Announcements

4th SEED Awards – Call for Submissions

Do you have an entrepreneurial and innovative idea that is locally-driven and has great potential to contribute to sustainable development in countries with developing or transition economies? Ideas that meet SEED’s eligibility criteria can apply now for the 2009 SEED Awards for entrepreneurship in sustainable development. Award Winners receive a comprehensive package of tailor-made support services, worth up to \$40,000, to help their venture to become established and to increase their impact. This includes access to relevant expertise and technical assistance, meeting new partners and building networks, developing business plans and identifying sources of finance. The deadline for applications is March 16, 2009. To read eligibility criteria for the SEED Awards and/or to apply, please visit www.seedinit.org.

Mount Allison University - How Green Are You? Video Contest

Mount Allison University is looking for video submissions (2 minutes or less) that highlight what you, or a group, are doing to help the environment. The competition is open to anyone, young and not so young, all across the world. Contest judges will choose seven finalists and the top seven submissions will be posted online in March for public voting for a final four winners. The winning videographers will receive cash prizes and a matching gift to the environmental charity of their choice. The deadline for submissions is February 15, 2009. For more information, please visit www.mta.ca/environment/howgreenareyou/index.html.

Resources

IISD Book - The Citizen is Willing, but Society Won’t Deliver

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, *The Citizen is Willing, But Society Won’t Deliver: The Problem of Institutional Roadblocks* looks at why institutional systems prove singularly unsystematic, and why they often fail in spectacular fashion as concerns the environment. According to the authors, “the environmental cause [...], after decades of efforts by governments, businesses, media and others, is losing ground faster than ever. Problems proliferate, leaving us trying to push ever-larger rocks up ever-steeper hills.” Tackling these institutional roadblocks is a key way to get ahead of the game and prevent problems from becoming problems in the first place. A free download of this book is available at www.iisd.org/publications/pub.aspx?pno=1029.

Employment

Evergreen - Stewardship Coordinators

Evergreen, a not-for-profit organization that aims to make cities more liveable, is currently seeking candidates for two (2) Stewardship Coordinator positions in Toronto, ON. Responsibilities related to these positions include: coordinating and leading community planting, maintenance and educational events; promoting events and supporting outreach to community groups and agencies; and supporting the planning and delivery of community training workshops. Successful candidates will have a degree or equivalent professional experience in environmental studies, horticulture or ecological restoration; native plant identification skills and knowledge and a valid driver's license. The deadline for applications is February 2, 2009. Please visit www.evergreen.ca for more information.

Falls Brook Centre - Job Experience Program

Suitable for people interested in community development and seeking new skills, the goal of the Job Experience Program is to give and build upon work experience in a non-profit organization, and to develop skills in the fields of international cooperation and sustainable community development. Successful applicants will start their work experience at Falls Brook Centre in rural New Brunswick. They will be placed, depending on skills, with a partner organization in Central America or Cuba. These positions require determined, self-starting individuals who are willing to work in a team. The successful applicant will be given a moderate financial stipend to cover living expenses. Please visit www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/employment.htm for more details about the Job Experience Program.