

RCEN e-Bulletin – June 22nd, 2009 Edition

Network News

Welcome to the new Biodiversity Caucus!

Last month, the RCEN Board approved the creation of a new caucus to ensure better coordination and support for the many RCEN members working on the issue of biodiversity. Evolving from the successful Biodiversity Working Group, the Biodiversity Caucus is already hard at work on some interesting initiatives. [More info on the Biodiversity Caucus' homepage](#)

Only one week left to participate in the “Pan-Canadian Biodiversity Best Practices/Case Studies Contest”

Winners will receive \$200 to write a 1-2 page summary that will be included as an annex to Canada's Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. [Participate now!](#)

Breathing New Life into the Youth Caucus

The RCEN is excited to announce that the Youth Caucus is in the process of reviving itself. The participation of over 10 youth delegates at the 2009 AGA has laid the foundation for a strengthened youth presence in the Network. Already, several passionate, knowledgeable individuals from across Canada are shaping the caucus' projects and activities.

We're currently seeking nominations for the Youth Caucus Steering Committee. [Visit the Youth Caucus webpage](#) to learn more about how to participate and to view our new “youth recruitment” video.

RCEN Living History Tour Moving to the Maritimes

After spending a few days in Ottawa and [meeting with RCEN staff](#), Dylan and Garrett are now in Quebec City and will be biking towards New Brunswick tomorrow. So far, they've interviewed 10 past and present members of the Network and have recorded their stories, insights and thoughts about the RCEN and its unique role within the environmental community in Canada. Follow their progress at <http://www.canadianodyssey.ca/>.

Other Calls

Call for Interest: RCEN Biodiversity Caucus

In preparation of the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity from October 18-29, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan and the International Year of Biodiversity, it is important to scale up the work that ENGOs are already doing across Canada and to build ever greater awareness of the value of biodiversity and the threat of its rapid loss. To this end, the RCEN Biodiversity Caucus is calling out to the RCEN membership to find out which groups are interested in or planning for IDB and IYB and what is being planned. In the run-up to 2010, we will also be looking into funding opportunities for ENGO biodiversity projects. Please send your replies by September 1st, 2009. [More information](#)

Call for Nominations: RCEN Youth Caucus Steering Committee

The RCEN is in the process of creating a new Youth Caucus and is seeking interim Steering Committee members to lead the shaping of the Youth Caucus. This is an amazing opportunity for you to be part of a group of youth that are engaged in the environmental movement, as well as being part of decision-making and planning of national activities. This call is open to all youth who belong to, or are willing to join, the Youth Caucus. We are aiming to have the new Steering Committee in place and a first conference call before the beginning of the next school year. The deadline for nominations is August 7, 2009. [More information](#)

Call for NGO Inputs to the Reports for the 18th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

NGOs and other Major Groups working on Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns are invited to provide input to the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports, focusing on best practices and lessons learned in implementation. These reports are being prepared for the 18th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18), which is scheduled to take place in New York from May 3-14, 2010. The deadline for submissions is August 17, 2009. The guidelines can be found online at: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_mg/mg_pdfs/mg_csd18_call_sg_repo.pdf

Action Alerts

Canadian Youth Climate Coalition - Help Spread the Word about the *KyotoPlus* Petition

The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC) is joining with other NGOs across Canada to ask individual Canadians to sign the *KYOTOPlus* Petition. The petition calls for Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 25 per cent (from the 1990 level) by 2020. The petition signatures will be delivered to the United Nations climate conference that will take place in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This conference will make the crucial decision about a second phase of the Kyoto Protocol. The CYCC and other *KyotoPlus* partners are asking environmental groups to spread the word about the petition. [Click here to sign the petition](#)

Announcements

Chemicals Management Plan Tracking Tool Now Available!

The RCEN's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) Capacity Building Project has created a new tracking tool. This spreadsheet is designed to track the risk assessment management decisions pertaining to Challenge substances of the CMP, and the government's justifications for these. NGOs are welcome and encouraged to add and utilize it according to their purposes and to share their additions with the RCEN/Environmental Defense to help increase civil society capacity to engage in the Government of Canada's CMP Program. Visit <http://www.cen-rce.org/CMP/indexcmp.html> to view the tracking tool (in the right-hand menu).

Announcing the International Day for Climate Action on October 24th

On October 24th, an international climate campaign called 350 is asking you to [organize an action](#) in the place where you live, something that will make that most important number visible to everyone: "350 - as in parts per million, the level scientists have identified as the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere". People in more than 1000 communities around the globe have already announced plans. At each event, people will gather for a big group photo that somehow depicts 350, and upload that photo to the web 350.org. By the end of the day, there will be a

powerful visual petition linking together the entire planet that can be delivered to the media and world leaders. For more information about 350 and the October 24th events, visit www.350.org.

Call for Nominations for the Habitat Scroll of Honour

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is still accepting nominations to the most prestigious human settlements award in the world, the Habitat Scroll of Honour. This award acknowledges initiatives which have made outstanding contributions in all areas of shelter provision and improving the quality of urban life. This year, the jury will give particular attention to achievements related to this year's theme of *Planning our urban future* and especially those pertaining to environmental sustainability, equity, gender parity, pro-poor growth and participatory governance. The deadline for sending nominations and submissions is August 15, 2009. More information is available at <http://www.unhabitat.org/whd2009information>.

Events

Workshop: "Neighbourhood Watch: Bringing a Private Prosecution"

Presented by East Coast Environmental Law, this workshop will teach groups and citizens in Nova Scotia and PEI how to enforce environmental legislation through prosecution. Led by one of Canada's leading experts on private environmental prosecutions, Doug Chapman, the events will be taking place on the following dates: Annapolis Royal on July 27, Halifax on July 28, Sydney on July 29 and Charlottetown on July 31. To register and for more information, call 902.454.2198 ext. 107, e-mail workshop@ecelaw.ca or visit ECELAW's website at <http://www.ecelaw.ca/>.

The Canadian Science Policy Conference 2009

The 2009 Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC), to be held October 28-30 in Toronto, is a national, multi-sector and multi-disciplinary forum for discussing critical science policy questions facing Canada. CSPC is an initiative of scientists, industry representatives, policy researchers and key opinion leaders designed to create a permanent national forum to discuss science policy. The CSPC has 3 primary objectives: 1) to identify and discuss current Canadian science policy; 2) to forge stronger links between stakeholders and policy-makers; 3) to lay the foundation for establishing a Canadian "Virtual Institute" for Science Policy Research. The early bird deadline for registration is August 15th, 2009. More information can be found at <http://sciencepolicy.ca/>.

Employment

Canadian Council for International Co-operation – Communications Officer

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) is currently seeking a Communications Officer for its Ottawa office. Under the supervision of the Communications Coordinator, the Communications Officer ensures that CCIC's website is updated and maintained. The Communications Officer also helps to ensure quality and consistency of print and electronic publications, and contributes to the development and implementation of the work plan for the Communications team. A university degree with a specialization in Communications and/or related experience and education, a minimum of 3 years relevant experience, and proficiency in written and spoken French are required for this position. The deadline for applications is August 13, 2009. Visit www.ccic.ca for more information.