

RCEN e-Bulletin – March 25th, 2009 Edition

Network News

Environmental Assessment in the News

Over the past few months, there have been many [news reports](#) about the federal government's plans to seek "regulatory efficiencies" for projects subject to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), among other proposed changes.

Members of the RCEN's Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus are concerned that these new regulatory changes will severely compromise the goals and practices of sustainable development in Canada. In fact, federal environmental assessment provides critical information, and sometimes the only assessment review, on project proposals across the country.

In order to inform the public debate about this issue, members of the Caucus are encouraging concerned citizens and groups to consult and share several information documents posted on the [EPA Caucus webpage](#), and to express their concerns by sending a letter to the Minister of the Environment.

Canadians not quitting on the environment

According to a February [poll](#) conducted by Ipsos Reid, a majority (57%) of Canadians agree that Canada should take serious action on climate change right now, even if it means higher deficits. Furthermore, three-quarters of Canadians say we should only adopt stimulus measures that are environmentally sustainable, while 71 per cent say it's more important for the government to focus on jobs than climate change. Sounds like a strong case for green jobs!

Calls for Delegates

Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Steering Committee – ENGO Member

The RCEN Mining Caucus will be selecting one ENGO delegate to join the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) Steering Committee. This delegate will join a second active ENGO delegate on this Committee and will take on a 2-year alternating term, from April 2009 to April 2011. The Steering Committee meets face-to-face on average once per year in conjunction with the MEND Annual Meeting in December. There are several teleconferences per year, and member expertise is requested at times for the review of technical research proposals and final reports. For face-to-face meetings, Natural Resources Canada's NOAMI/MEND Secretariat will pay travel costs when incurred and provides a \$250 per diem. The deadline to apply is April 6, 2009. [Read More...](#)

National Orphaned / Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee – ENGO Member

The RCEN Mining Caucus will be selecting one ENGO delegate to join the National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee. This delegate will join a second active ENGO delegate on this Committee and will take on a 2-year alternating term, from April 2009 to April 2011. The Advisory Committee meets face-to-face on average 2 times per year in conjunction with the spring NOAMI Annual General Meeting and the Mines Ministers Meeting in September. Participation on Task Groups is also encouraged on a volunteer basis. For face-to-face meetings,

Natural Resources Canada's NOAMI/MEND Secretariat will pay travel costs when incurred and provides a \$250 per diem. The deadline to apply is April 6, 2009. [Read More...](#)

Announcements

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper Podcasts: Listen While You Work

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper (LOW) has created a weekly radio show – Living at the Barricades - that focuses on a variety of environmental issues, mostly water related, in Ontario and Canada. Each show is archived as a podcast and can be downloaded directly from the LOW website. Last week's show featured author Andrew Nikiforuk talking about the Alberta Tar Sands, the driving forces behind energy production, and the roll-backs to environmental protections in Canada. This week, the hosts will speak with Joan Barton of Environmental Haliburton, and Joan Kuyek, formerly of Mining Watch Canada about what mining issues say about environmental protection in Canada. Visit www.waterkeeper.ca to access the podcasts.

Action Alerts

Canadian Biotechnology Action Network - Take Action to Keep Canadian Sugar GM-Free

Canadian sugar company Lantic Inc. (Rogers Sugar and Lantic brands) is deciding right now to accept or reject Monsanto's genetically modified sugar beet. Lantic Inc. is the only sugar company in Canada that processes sugar beets (grown in Alberta), but the GM sugar beet will only be planted if Lantic allows it. Lantic sugar is currently GM-Free. This sugar beet is genetically modified to be resistant to Monsanto's herbicide Roundup and is currently applied to sugar beet used for processing into sugar, as opposed to red table beets. Visit www.cban.ca/sugarbeet before April 8 to send an email to the President of Lantic Inc., asking him to keep Canadian sugar GM-Free.

Resources

"Fireside Chat" on the Canadian Waterscape in a Changing Climate

Hosted by the Community Health Research Unit at the University of Ottawa, CHNET-Works! is an evolving infrastructure, using innovative information technology to help support discussions and actions on pressing community health issues. Their *Fireside Chats* are free pan-Canadian discussion forums for professionals in community health. Hosted by Dr Scott Findlay, the April 24th session - The Canadian Waterscape in a Changing Climate - will examine the likely effects of climate change on Canada's water supply, and discuss community-based mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The registration deadline is April 17th. To learn more about the Fireside Chats, please visit <http://www.chnet-works.ca>.

Events

National Environmental Exhibition in Montreal

The *Coopérative de travail Terre Nouvelle* is holding the fourth edition of the National Environmental Exhibition (NEE) in the Old Port of Montreal on June 19, 20 and 21. This year, In addition to the 200 exhibitors and more than 40000 visitors, the NEE is offering an entirely new and original program featuring various environmental themes. Visitors can attend daily lectures and practical workshops related to the theme of the day. The NEE will address new themes such as ecological footprints, and emphasize practical solutions and innovations that best reflect the

principles and values that now guide 21st century inventors and designers. Environmental organisations are invited to come and present their innovative solutions to environmental challenges. For more information, visit <http://www.terrenouvelle.info/en.html>.

Employment

Greenpeace - Climate and Energy Campaigner

Greenpeace Canada is looking for a campaigner to work primarily on climate and energy issues at the federal level and in Quebec. This person will be based in Montreal. Candidates should have a proven record on developing and implementing successful campaign strategies, as well as excellent communications skills (both verbal and written, in both languages), and strong negotiation skills. The chosen candidate will develop relationships with other groups and activists; represent Greenpeace at meetings with industry and government officials; and act as a spokesperson to the media and at public events. The closing date for applications is April 13, 2009. For more information, or to apply, please email canadian.recruitment@greenpeace.org, or visit www.greenpeace.org/canada.

Environmental Health Association of Ontario – President

The Environmental Health Association of Ontario (EHAO) is looking for a new president. The organization needs a capable person in the Ottawa area to assume the role of EHAO President, with special emphasis on the Ottawa region and membership services, as soon as possible. The chosen candidate will have support from the Executive, a part-time Executive Director, and other volunteers, and there will be a three-month transition period for easing in. If you feel you have the qualities required and would like to make a valuable contribution to a wonderful, dynamic organization, please contact president@ehaoffice.ca. You can also visit <http://ehaontario.ca/> for more information about the organization.