

RCEN E-Bulletin – April 30th, 2008 Edition

Network News

Remembering Martha Kostuch

Last Thursday, one of the RCEN's founding members and well-known environmental activist Martha Kostuch passed away at her home in Alberta. Martha devoted her life to protecting the environment and was an inspiration to us all within the Network. We would like to express our condolences to all her family and friends.

Through a special Remembrance page on our website, we hope to honour Martha's life and allow people who knew her to share their memories with others. Visit the page at <http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/Martha/index.html>.

Calls for Delegates

ENGO Representative for the Boreal Learning Network Workshop Sessions

The RCEN is looking for one (1) ENGO delegate to join the Boreal Learning Network Workshop Sessions. The Boreal Learning Network is a new opportunity that brings together leaders in First Nations communities and environmental nonprofits that are focused on the future of the Boreal forest and is centered on three workshop retreat sessions, each chosen for their ability to highlight the natural beauty of the region and offer professional meeting facilities in a comfortable and enjoyable setting. Each session is 2 ½ days long, with the first one taking place at the end of May. Travel, accommodations and meals are provided to the participants. **The deadline for applications is May 7th**. For more information, please [click here](#).

ENGO participation in Consultations on Proposed Amendments to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER – Schedule 2)

The RCEN has been invited to select a roster of ENGO delegates from which four (4) will be selected to participate in each of several consultations on proposed amendments to the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations* (MMER) to add lakes as tailings impoundment areas (TIAs) to Schedule 2 of the Regulations. The first consultation session is scheduled for May 14, 2008 with several others to follow at various undetermined times through March 31, 2009. These consultation sessions will take place in various locations across Canada including the Ottawa/Gatineau area. Environment Canada would pay travel costs (when incurred), and up to four days of time at \$350 per diem for each TIA under consideration, plus an additional day of travel as appropriate. **The deadline to apply is May 4th, 2008**. For more information, please [click here](#).

Other Calls

Calls for Nominations – RCEN Caucus Steering Committees

The RCEN is currently conducting Calls for Nominations for membership on the following Caucus Steering Committees: [Agriculture](#), [Atmosphere & Energy](#), [Mining](#), [Toxics](#) and [Water Fisheries and Oceans](#). This is an excellent opportunity for you to be part of Caucus decision-making and the planning of activities! This call is open to all RCEN members who belong to, or are willing to join these national caucuses, including current Steering Committee members. Please click on any of

the previous links to read more about these opportunities, or [click here](#) to view all current Calls for Nominations.

ENGO Comments Requested Prior to CSD-16

In advance of the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16), ENGOs are invited to communicate with the selected RCEN delegates to express their comments and concerns in relation to key issues on the CSD-16 agenda. For details, please [click here](#) to read the full Call for Comments.

Action Alerts

CBAN - Take Action before May 14 to Stop Genetically Engineered Trees

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) is requesting sign-on from groups to an open letter to the Canadian Government asking for an end to approvals of field trials in Canada and asking to support an international moratorium on GE trees. Individuals are asked to write to the Minister of the Environment. [Read the full Action Alert here.](#)

Announcements

Biodiversity and the Convention – CBD Background Document Available

The RCEN is now offering a background document entitled "[Biodiversity and the Convention](#)" to inform NGOs and civil society at large about the role of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and how it relates to some of the most important biodiversity issues in Canada. This background is prepared in advance of International Biodiversity Day on May 22, 2008 and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) of the CBD on May 19-30 in Bonn, Germany. Included are a brief history of the CBD and a description of the current implementation cycle leading up to the COP9 meeting. This paper also includes elements of recommendations from the environmental community in Canada. We encourage you to distribute copies of this document to everyone in your community. Please [click here](#) to read the document.

Resources

Statistics Canada Publication - Human Activity and the Environment (HAE)

According to Statistics Canada, their HAE publication is a trustworthy and very readable resource on Canada's environment. It presents a compendium of maps, tables and figures punctuated with simple analysis and interpretation, to paint a statistical portrait of Canada's environment. This latest edition includes a special emphasis on human activity and climate change. The feature article, "Climate change in Canada", looks at greenhouse gas emissions, including their sources and impacts. It also contains practices to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as advice on how to adapt to the changing climate. The publication is now available at no cost on [Statistics Canada's website.](#)

Events

A Question of Direction: Living on Earth as if We Want to Stay

What is a "healthy environment"? How will we bring it about? The Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN) invites you to an evening of discussion and exploration with Mike Nickerson, sustainability activist, currently on tour with Donna Dillman, on the matter of "A Question of Direction". The event will be taking place on May 2nd at the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto, ON. For more info, please call Marie Lorenzo or Linda Thomson at 416-928-0880, or e-mail office@womenshealthyenvironments.ca. You can also visit the [WHEN's website](#) or [click here](#) to learn more about "A Question of Direction".

Eighth Regular Session of the Council of the Canada-Chile Commission for Environmental Cooperation

The [Council of the Canada-Chile Commission for Environmental Cooperation](#) will hold its Eighth Regular Session on Wednesday May 7th. This Meeting will provide the Chilean Ministerial Representative, Mr. Álvaro Sapag, Executive Director of the National Commission for the Environment of Chile and David McGovern, ADM International Affairs and Representative of the Honourable John Baird, with an opportunity to review the implementation of the Canada-Chile Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (CCAEC) and to study priorities for further cooperation. As part of the Regular Session of the Commission, the Joint Public Advisory Committee will host a Public Session where all members of the public are invited to participate, at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario. If you wish to attend, please register by faxing the attached registration form to (819) 997-0199, no later than May 2nd, 2008.