

RCEN Agriculture Caucus 2009-10 Workplan

2009-10 RCEN Agriculture Caucus Steering Committee:

[Rick Morrell](#), Chair, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, SK

[Josh Brandon](#), Manitoba Eco-Network, MB

[Graeme Bousada](#), Eco-Action Mount Allison University, NB

[Barbara Amos](#), Sierra Club, NB

[Clara Whyte](#), Gaia Vision, QC

[Emily C Doyle](#), Food Education Action, NL

[Maureen Reilly](#), Beyond Factory Farming, ON

[John Burcombe](#), Mouvement Au Courant, QC

Caucus Mandate

The Agriculture Caucus of the RCEN is a cross-Canada network of people involved in agriculture and the environment, who are committed to working towards an agricultural future which respects and nourishes both human communities and the natural world, and is truly sustainable environmentally, economically and socially.

Work Plan Vision

In 2009, the Agriculture Caucus will work hard on advancing the efforts of its two new working groups: one working on a sustainable certification framework for agricultural products and the other on agricultural impacts to water. The caucus will also maintain its engagement and seek out new opportunities to engage in national agriculture policy development.

National Agri-environmental Policy Development

The Agriculture Caucus will continue to participate in:

- Health Canada's Pest Management Advisory Council - Maria Castro
- Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum (CFPF) - John Burcombe believes we will have to push forward on our own as the CFPF formal forum came to a close at the end of FY 2008
 - CFPF Biosolids Working Group
 - Maureen Reilly would like to develop a sign-on campaign calling for a moratorium on spreading sewage sludge on farm land and will investigate the connections between this and the Ag Impacts to Water Working Group
- Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy Framework – Growing Forward
 - John Burcombe will lead on providing briefings on federal and Québec agricultural environmental goods and services policy and Clara Whyte will provide briefings on international linkages
- Review of New Substances Notification Regulations for Organisms other than Microorganisms – Maria Castro
- Veterinary Drugs Directorate Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Committee – Maria Castro
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Committee – Maria Castro & Gabrielle Kretschmar
 - Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
 - Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation
- North American Symposium on Agriculture and Free Trade, Environmental Implications – Gabrielle Kretschmar

The Agriculture Caucus will continue to pursue participation in:

- National Animal Health Strategy development hosted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 - Continue to monitor and pursue engagement in consultation should stakeholders be re-engaged – Maria Castro

Agriculture Caucus Working Groups

1. Sustainable Certification Framework for Agricultural Products Group

Rick Morrell, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Chair and Lead

Purpose is to develop a comprehensive sustainable certification framework for agricultural products. This framework would combine organic with locally produced, with family farming, with ecological goods and services, with fair trade and other ethical criteria, in order to reward local family farms for responsible social and ecological practices and to provide the consumer with a socially and ecologically conscious food source.

We are proposing a certification process that would bring together these factors and combine them in a single logo which would allow the consumer in one glance to determine:

1. is it organically produced;
2. is it from a family farm;
3. where was it produced (for processed foods, ingredient origins as well for main ingredients);
4. what environmental goods and services (if any) are supplied by this farm;
5. is there a fair trade relationship in place between vendors and producers of this product;
6. are humane practices used for animals?

Current Working Group Members:

Rick Morrell
Graeme Bousada
Clara White
Emily Doyle
Others???

2. Agricultural Impacts to Water Working Group

Glen Koroluk, Beyond Factory Farming, Chair and Lead

- Maureen Reilly will act as liaison between this working group and the Ag Steering Committee

Agricultural Impacts to Water Working Group will be developing a research proposal and paper to clarify the impacts of agricultural practices on Canada's water resources with the goal of educating the network, the public and decision-makers.

We propose a flexible partnership among NGOs involved in water and agriculture issues in order to effectively collaborate on the shared goals of:

1. synthesizing available information on the impact of industrial agriculture on water supply and water quality in Canada
2. improving our organizations' and their constituencies' knowledge base regarding the impacts of agriculture on water in Canada
3. enhancing citizens understanding of these impacts to promote changes in behaviour to improve water quality and quantity
4. influencing decisions made by policy makers and regulators regarding environmental and agricultural laws and regulations in Canada as they pertain to agriculture's impact on water

Current Working Group Members:

Glen Koroluk, Beyond Factory Farming

Theresa McClenaghan, Canadian Environmental Law Association

Carolyn Webb, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

Terry Pugh, National Farmers Union

Celeste Côté, Sierra Club of Canada

Olga Schwartzkopf, Soil and Water Conservation Society – BC Chapter

Maureen Reilly, Beyond Factory Farming

Dan Casselman/Philana Dollin, Canadian Environmental Network

Recommended Academic/Scientific support:

Jim Bruce, David Brooks, Bob Sanford, David Schindler, Hans Schreier