

Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus Budget and Work Plan for 2009-2010

Caucus Steering Committee Members

- Pat Moss (Co-Chair), Northwest Institute, BC
- Gary Schneider (Co-Chair), Environmental Coalition of PEI, PEI
- Doug Badger, Regional Environmental Action Committee, AB
- John Burcombe, Mouvement Au Courant, QC
- Peter Duck, Bow Valley Naturalists, AB
- Roberta Frampton Benefiel, Grand Riverkeeper Labrador, Inc, NL
- Joseph Hnatiuk, Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, AB
- Jamie Kneen, MiningWatch Canada, ON
- Arlene Kwasniak, Alberta Wilderness Association, AB
- Susan Rutherford, West Coast Environmental Law Association, BC
- John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba, MB
- Bruno Marcocchio, Sierra Club of Canada, NS
- Michael Poellet, Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative, SK

Caucus Mandate & Objectives

The Environmental Planning & Assessment Caucus members share a common vision of truly effective environmental assessment in Canada. The Caucus provides input and feedback to all member groups and, through face-to-face meetings and regular communication, is able bring forward a strong analysis of the many facets of environmental assessment in this country. This allows Caucus members to inform the environmental community about developments and issues connected with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and its regulations, and allows member groups to fit local initiatives into larger policy contexts.

The strong communication between diverse member groups located in all regions of Canada and the energy, knowledge and "on the ground" experience of its members make the Caucus the most substantive and dynamic network of environmental assessment expertise in Canada today.

Caucus Budget

Caucus meetings (fall and conference calls) \$24 500

Caucus coordination: \$26 500

Administration fee (15%): \$9 000

Total: \$60 000

Caucus Activities

1. Caucus Meetings and Conference Calls

-DRAFT-

Goal: To bring together fellow activists, with varying degrees of experience, with the common goal of improving environmental planning and assessment in this country.

Objectives: The Caucus proposes to hold a meeting in the fall of 2009. Approximately 20 Caucus member-group representatives will be democratically chosen by a selection committee of the Caucus to attend this two day meeting.

Meeting participants will:

- Confirm the composition of, and set general priorities for, the Caucus steering committee, chairs, subcommittees, and other representatives;
- Work on specific areas of interest and expertise;
- Work in subcommittees (most work done by email) to discuss and formulate positions on specific issues of concern to Caucus members;
- Report on the state of environmental assessment in their respective areas.

Timeline: Fall meeting in September 2009.

If additional funding is received a second meeting will be held in the spring of 2010.

Conference calls of the steering committee are held on an as needed basis, generally every 2-3 months.

Conference calls of subcommittees may be held as needed.

Budget: \$24,500 + additional funds as needed/permitted

2. Participation with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Goal: To lend expertise, experience, and knowledge to the Minister of Environment's Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC)

Objectives: Representatives of Caucus member groups will continue their participation in RAC when and if it is reconvened.

Timeline: On going throughout the year when active.

Budget: Included in Letter of Agreement with CEAA (Agency).

Besides the RAC, the Caucus has a number of working groups dedicated to a variety of activities to promote improved environmental assessment and participation regionally and federally.

3. Strategic Plan Initiatives

- Goal:** To continue to pursue activities relating to the development of the Caucus' strategic plan, established in 2002. Priorities include:
- Improving public participation
 - Advancing the use of strategic environmental assessment
 - Ensuring the quality of environmental assessments

This long-term strategy aims to improve EA within all jurisdictions in Canada and guides the activities of the Caucus.

- Objectives:** Members will develop work plans and carry out activities within the framework of the strategic plan, which includes the following Caucus internal committees:
- Public Participation
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - Strategic Legal Actions
 - Conference Priorities
 - Seven Year Review
 - MPMO/ Multi-jurisdictional / Harmonization

Timeline: On going throughout the year.

Budget: Included in Letter of Agreement with CEAA (Agency)

4. Seven Year Review of the *Environmental Assessment Act*

- Goal:** To continue strengthening public involvement in the upcoming Seven Year Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in 2010. Specifically, the Caucus plans to look at ways to build on completed work on awareness and capacity-building around the review, and at the same time increase public interest in federal environmental assessment.

- Objectives:** The Caucus will submit a proposal to CEAA (Agency) to gain funds to continue working at informing the public about the upcoming review, letting them know how they can get involved and providing the tools for effective participation in both the review and the broader environmental assessment process.

Timeline: Ongoing throughout the year (term ending March 31, 2010)

Budget: TBD – funding proposal.