

**INPUT FROM CANADIAN NGOS TO THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO CSD 18-19
FEBRUARY 26, 2010**

INTRODUCTION / SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION AS A LENS

This paper outlines the aspirations Canadian NGOs have for the upcoming cycle of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and discusses the challenges and context surrounding these objectives. The paper results from a consultation process that was conducted by the Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) and that included several teleconferences, the submission of written comments, and preparation of the paper by a writer and an editor.ⁱ A draft of the paper was reviewed by technical specialists and NGO stakeholders. RCEN thanks the Department of Foreign Affairs for its generous assistance of this process.

It is important to highlight that among Canadian NGOs and youth, there is an unprecedented interest in the upcoming CSD process. Members of the RCEN Youth Caucus have undertaken an online survey that has canvassed the opinions of over 100 young Canadians, ages 15 – 30, on their opinions about the issues of CSD 18-19. The results of that survey are presented in the attached Appendix A and discussed in the sections below.

CSD offers the promise and potential for problems to be approached in a holistic manner. It allows governments and stakeholder groups to engage in wide ranging discussions about environmental and development challenges with the full intention of recognizing drivers, root causes, interlinkages and cross-cutting issues.

The promise of CSD, however, has yet to be fully realized. At the end of CSD 13, 15, and 17, many questioned whether time, effort and expense had been effectively spent.

Many shortcomings of CSD are linked to the practice by countries (including Canada) to attend CSD with the defensive posture of protecting short-term national interests, rather than cooperating to develop longer-term solutions in the interest of sustainable development. As well, CSD's major emphasis on developing a consensus text on each thematic area has not achieved concrete action at the scale that is necessary to reverse the worsening ecological and social trends at the global level.

At the outset, Canadian NGOs urge the Canadian Government to adopt an approach to CSD which prioritizes the development of effective international approaches to sharing and problem solving, rather than pushing and/or protecting immediate national interests as was the case during recent climate change negotiations.

Despite past shortcomings and dialogue breakdowns, Canadian NGOs are enthusiastic about the potential of CSD 18-19 given the focus on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). SCP can be defined as "a system providing for human needs, improving social and economic security and quality of life for all people, including future generations, while protecting the ecosystems upon which human life depends"ⁱⁱⁱ. Canadian NGOs not only welcome the discussion on SCP but believe that SCP is an important lens through which to tie the other CSD 18 and 19 thematic issues together. The themes of Waste and Transport seem particularly well suited to an SCP analysis. The SCP lens could also be applied to an industry, as shown in a discussion of the auto industry attached as Appendix B.

Just as discussions about the thematic issues of CSD should not occur in isolation, Canada should not engage in the CSD unconnected to its other ongoing efforts. Canadian NGOs

note Canada's lack of publicly reported progress on the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy envisioned under the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* which became law in June 2008. We encourage the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy and preparations for CSD to occur in tandem.

In the spirit of CSD, as well as in recognition of the interconnectedness of environmental threats, Canadian NGOs note that CSD 18 is occurring during the International Year of Biodiversity. The industries and activities that underlie the thematic discussions at CSD 18-19 have been significant drivers of the loss of biodiversity. It is appropriate to acknowledge and address these impacts when discussing each of the themes at CSD.

PRIORITIES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Aspirations for CSD 18-19

- Reinvigorate the Marrakesh Process, which has lost momentum and direction
- Facilitate the development of an SCP Framework for Canada
- Identify the optimal leverage points and policy mixes, for example, education, incentives and regulation, to effectively promote SCP
- Hold a robust discussion about SCP and develop alternative measures and indicators (e.g. "footprinting" methodologies and "well-being" indexes)
- Develop new and existing partnerships that promote SCP

Context and Challenges - SCP

The roots and drivers of the world's major crises lie in unsustainable production and consumption patterns. It has long been recognized that rates of utilization of natural resources and degradation of the environment cannot continue unabated. At the same time, the basic needs of over 2 billion people have yet to be met. Current Ecological Footprint calculations indicate that humanity is in ecological overshoot at the global level, with estimates that we currently use the equivalent of 1.4 planets to provide the resources and absorb the waste of a growing world populationⁱⁱⁱ.

Enabling SCP has long been an objective of the UN system. More recently, since 2003, the "Marrakech Process" has sought to develop a "10 Year Framework of Programmes" (10YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The Third Public Draft of the Marrakech sets out the need to "identify specific activities, tools, policies, measures and monitoring and assessment mechanisms, including, where appropriate, life-cycle analysis and national indicators for measuring progress." The CSD process could play a valuable role in determining the extent to which each of these items called for by the Marrakech is, or is not, already in place and the types of national and international programmes of support that would be needed to ensure that they are implemented around the world.

Unfortunately, the Marrakesh process appears to have lost momentum and lacks direction. At this point, it is not clear what the specific and concrete outcomes of the 10YFP will be, how these outcomes will "support regional and national initiatives" to shift to SCP patterns, as mandated by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, who will be ultimately responsible to ensure follow-up and implementation, and what mechanism will ensure such follow-up. The CSD nevertheless presents a valuable opportunity for reflection and evaluation of SCP efforts to date. It is essential that governments reinvigorate the Marrakech Process and ensure it leads to a strong declaration and concrete outcomes by CSD 19, including the supporting of multi-stakeholder partnerships around existing and new SCP initiatives.

A continuing priority must be for governments to actualize their long-standing commitment to prioritize and integrate SCP policies into their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), which Canada has yet to produce. Although many Canadian initiatives advance aspects of SCP, as demonstrated through Canada's National SCP Report to CSD 18 and 19, these initiatives tend to be fragmented and insufficient to reduce the per capita Eco-Footprint of Canadians. This is due in part to the complexity of SCP as a concept, to the fact that many initiatives focus on one part of the consumption / production system without identifying their role in broader systematic change, to the typical jurisdictional challenges that our country faces, to the silo structure of federal departments, and to the lack of established indicators to measure the success of SCP initiatives. The Canadian NGO community strongly encourages the Federal Government to pursue the development of its SCP framework and engage the provinces and territories in this discussion so that Canada can, at the national level, coordinate efforts across different scales and speak with a more unified voice in international discussions.

Canadian NGOs recognize the significant progress, from a process perspective, that has been made at the regional level in North America. The US hosted a first North American meeting on SCP with Canada in November 2008. Out of this meeting, an SCP Framework for Canada was initiated and a multi-stakeholder committee was established. Canadian NGOs commend Canada for showing leadership by moving forward with such a framework. Given that the next SCP regional meeting is expected to take place in Ottawa later this year, Canadian NGOs again urge the Government of Canada to integrate these discussions with preparations for Marrakech, CSD and the Regional meetings, as well as ensure that there is a transparent and inclusive mechanism in place to keep Canadians informed of developments on these fronts.

A critical component of encouraging SCP is to shift the way we assess environmental impacts, "progress" and "well-being". Inherent in the concept of "sustainability" is the acknowledgement that unchecked "growth" cannot be maintained indefinitely into the future. Thus, it is essential to develop the mechanisms to gage achievements such as meeting societal needs, improving quality of life, and environmental protection. Canada could play a leadership role on the development of indicators given the work done by NGOs and government on footprinting methodologies and the development of the "Canadian Index of Wellbeing".^{iv} Canadian NGOs hope to work with the Canadian Government on highlighting this issue at CSD.

Another productive area of focus for CSD is to engage in a discussion intended to identify specific leverage points to effect change across the SCP system: production, marketing and distribution, consumption, waste, the product lifecycle, as well as the underlying values and cultural norms that shape society.

At this early stage in the CSD 18-19 process, many Canadian NGOs believe that the most useful "value-added" opportunity for CSD is in advancing partnerships. Specifically, Canadian NGOs see a need for all CSD stakeholders to support existing and new SCP initiatives at the local, national and regional levels by cataloguing and sharing information about current efforts and best practices and to provide a venue for SCP such partnerships to link to similar efforts.

RCEN's Youth Caucus survey ranked SCP as the most important theme to be addressed at CSD 18-19.^v Compiled results of the survey are presented in Appendix A and reveal that respondents believe governments are not promoting SCP sufficiently and that the respondents are already adopting in their own lives many of the practices integral to SCP (such as recycling, using public transit, water conservation and reusing goods such as bags and water bottles).

PRIORITIES RELATED TO MINING

Aspirations for CSD 18-19

- Encourage the conservation of non-renewable resources through reduction, reuse and recycling rather than primary resource extraction
- Provide for the meaningful involvement of local communities in decision making processes at all stages of mineral development
- Discourage ecologically damaging mining practices such as the use of natural water bodies as tailings ponds
- Support “corporate social responsibility” for mining companies
- Establish binding mechanisms for holding mining companies accountable for remediation and negative social and environmental impacts
- Engage in a discussion of how the international community may most effectively promote binding compliance regulations (rather than voluntary guidelines)
- Promote transparency of mining operations and the public right to know as well as encourage “sustainability reporting” (e.g., the Global Reporting Initiatives)

Context and Challenges – Mining

While mining and processing provide a livelihood for many people, they frequently have serious environmental and social impacts on communities living near extraction sites, while generating few or limited benefits to host countries in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction as noted by UN’s Division of Sustainable Development.^{vi} An additional challenge is that mining sites are frequently abandoned and left in need of remediation, creating long-term negative impacts on local communities, economies and ecosystems.

Canadian NGOs believe the Government of Canada’s thematic paper on mining lacks balance. The paper showcases benefits but does not adequately acknowledge the problems caused by mining or the challenges remaining to be addressed. Mining operations are linked to a range of social and environmental problems including:

- Impacts on the rights of Indigenous peoples
- Violation of land rights (dispossession of land)
- Bribery and corruption
- Destruction of natural resources (e.g. trees and forests, agricultural land, water) upon which local economies, food supplies, shelter, culture, and other necessities of life are based; note that destabilizing these resources also significantly threatens peace and security
- Health problems and death (for humans and animals)
- Increased and intensified negative impacts on the health and safety of women and children in mining communities
- Greenhouse gas emissions of this energy intensive industry – particularly in refining (also the source of major air emissions of heavy metals and SO₂)

Displacement, conflicts between the mining communities and other actors, and the absence of consensual access agreements with indigenous communities continue to be issues in many countries, including Canada. National and sub-national governments also frequently lack adequate capacities for environmental assessment, conflict resolution, holding companies responsible for their negative impacts, and enforcing regulations relating to health and working safety and the environment.

In Canada Aboriginal rights are often infringed in the pursuit of mining developments. While many companies have improved their performance, and some mining companies have pursued shared-benefit agreements, their efforts have been at their own discretion and over the last few years significant conflicts have arisen when communities have attempted to

resist mining developments. Some of these issues remain unresolved and communities continue to have major infrastructure and social deficits as a result of having mines in their backyards. The labour movement is also concerned that globalization and concentration of ownership have weakened the power of local unions to negotiate better wages and working conditions (such as the strike at Vale Inco in Sudbury).

The Youth Caucus survey results show that an overwhelming majority of youth feel that the Government of Canada's efforts to prevent environmental impacts of mining activities are not adequate. There is also significant concern over the problems of acid rock drainage and using natural water bodies as tailings ponds.

CSD should aim to reduce the impact of mining and extractive activities. Canadian NGOs submit that this includes: reducing the need for mining and resource extraction (applying an SCP framework) by reusing and recycling materials and more efficiently using mined resources; lessening the environmental and social footprint of mining both during active mining phases and after remediation; more fully involving local communities in decision making processes; and sharing benefits of mining more broadly.

The following approaches could make mining more sustainable and we encourage the Government of Canada to raise them in the review at CSD 18:

- Tailoring mining rights of access so as not to impair other rights and societal needs (e.g., the rights to enjoy subsistence livelihoods, access to clean water, a healthy environment, and to take part in other economic activities)
- Reducing perverse subsidies that encourage mining over recycling and reuse
- Improving access to information (encouraging both voluntary and mandatory reporting), environmental impact assessment and the capacity of local communities to participate in decision making
- Establishing human rights, labour, and environmental standards for Canadian extractive companies to honour when they operate in foreign countries
- Creating a complaint mechanism allowing Canadians and affected individuals abroad to file complaints for violations of those standards
- Creating possible sanctions for non-complaint companies, in the form of loss of government financial and political support
- Establishing clear standards and corporate accountability mechanisms for social and environmental impacts
- Working with the international community to develop binding compliance regulations and collective international standards
- Honouring the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

Canadian NGOs look forward to working with the Delegation on these issues and will provide additional input and information on these topics.

PRIORITIES RELATED TO CHEMICALS

Aspirations for CSD

- Promote the cooperation and sharing of information about chemicals and other toxins between regulators at the international level
- Improve risk assessments to include understanding of cumulative exposures from chemicals
- Secure international cooperation on assessing the safety and impact of the thousands of chemicals already in use
- Address emerging issues such as nanotechnology, endocrine disruptors, and pharmaceuticals in waterbodies

- Further mainstream the precautionary approach
- Address international concerns related to the continued trade of hazardous and toxic substances, inadequate treatment and dumping of hazardous waste and Canadian export of asbestos
- Discuss incentives and regulation as mechanisms to encourage the use of safe and effective alternatives to chemicals that have significant impacts
- Showcase Canadian leadership on the regulation of Bisphenol A
- Encourage and support R&D in the field of green chemistry

Context and Challenges - Chemicals

Toxic chemicals threaten human and ecosystem health. Very little information exists, however, about the tens of thousands of manufactured chemicals currently in use, despite the fact that it has been recognized for decades that, “[t]he broadest possible awareness of chemical risks is a prerequisite for achieving chemical safety” (Chapter 19 of Agenda 21). Disconcertingly, far less information is available about the impacts of chemical interactions and the accumulated impacts of exposure to multiple chemicals. International collaboration to explore and address these gaps is imperative.

Canadian NGOs concur with the priority actions identified by Chair Dr. Luis Alberto Ferraté, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala:

1. substituting safer alternatives for hazardous and radioactive chemicals
2. evaluating and monitoring of risks to health and ecosystems
3. standardizing the classification, labelling and application of chemicals,
4. establishing mechanisms and institutional systems to reduce risks of chemical products,
5. promoting research, monitoring and exchange of information on hazardous, toxic, and radioactive chemicals as well as precautionary measures to reduce risks, and
6. preventing the production and illegal trafficking of hazardous, toxic, and radioactive chemicals.

While this list identifies several of the most important topics, it is not exhaustive.

Governments need to take a lifecycle and SCP approach to chemicals management. This includes putting the onus on chemical manufacturers to show that their products are safe rather than requiring governments, many of which have little capacity to perform such analysis, to prove a substance’s harm. Regulation should move from end-of-pipe solutions towards emphasizing pollution prevention. Governments should also encourage the use of green chemistry (an approach that aims to reduce pollution at its source) and alternatives to chemicals that cause harm.

The importance of public access to information on chemicals (the "right to know") cannot be overstated. Companies should be obliged to publicly release data related to the health and environmental effects of chemicals produced or imported. Databases on toxic chemical releases that identify individual facilities should also be made available to the public on a regular basis. Furthermore, public access to information should be increased through public notices and meetings.

It is important to analyze the thematic areas of CSD 18-19, and in particular chemicals, with reference to vulnerable populations. Children are more at risk to chemical exposure because they have higher respiration and metabolic rates than adults, they eat and drink more per bodyweight, and they live life closer to the ground, crawling, digging in dirt and putting objects in their mouths. WHO, UNICEF, and UNEP have identified a growing number of children’s health impacts from exposure to hazardous chemicals. Despite this, most chemicals in use have not been adequately tested for harm and or for their combined

impacts on children. Consistent with a precautionary approach, there should be a clear onus on producers to demonstrate that chemical and products do not cause substantial harm. Allowing the continued manufacture and sale of chemicals that have not been sufficiently tested is not adequately protective of public health and the environment.

A growing concern has been the international manufacture and trade of products that contain harmful chemicals. Over the past several years these products have included children's toys, food for humans and pets, textiles, jewellery, electronics, and furniture. Children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups are at particular risk from exposure to a variety of substances contained in these products. Yet, there is no global system for consumers, watchdogs, regulatory agencies, and others to access information on chemicals in products. Inadequate measures have been taken by the international community to ensure the safety of traded products.

Canadian NGOs are concerned about the damage to Canada's reputation due to another key trade issue – the continued export of asbestos. In a practice that reeks of hypocrisy, Canada has limited the domestic use of asbestos to prevent the exposure of Canadians to the danger, but it continues to be the world's second largest exporter of asbestos.^{vii} The Canadian position on this issue was condemned by the Chair of the Health Canada Committee reviewing chrysotile asbestos, who wrote "Canada has a pretty bleak reputation in most of the health science world."^{viii}

At the other end of the spectrum, Canadian NGOs would like to see Canada showcase its leadership on responding quickly to new science by regulating Bisphenol A.

Finally, Canadian NGOs urge Canada and other governments to use the CSD as a forum to ensure that emerging substances such as manufactured nanomaterials are being addressed. The research, development and release of products that contain nanotechnology have been happening quickly. However, no country has yet introduced labelling requirements, workplace safety standards, or nanotechnology-specific regulation that requires mandatory safety assessment tailored to the new risks of nano-particles. So-called 3rd and 4th generation nanotechnologies (e.g. nanosystems, or technology for self-assembly) are not far on the horizon. International collaboration needs to quickly ensure that the "simpler" 1st and 2nd generation nanomaterials are addressed, creating a foundation for ensuring the safety of advanced generations.

The Youth Caucus survey reveals significant concerns about the inadequacy of the Government of Canada's efforts to protect air and water quality. The survey also shows high levels of satisfaction on issues such as the Montreal Protocol, Bisphenol A, and the management of high risk chemicals.

PRIORITIES RELATED TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Aspirations for CSD

- Promote a zero waste approach and "closed loop" concept
- Encourage a waste hierarchy that prioritizes reduction, reuse, and recycling before resource recovery and landfill
- Engage in robust discussions of "extended producer responsibility"; Canada should use this opportunity to make progress on domestic policies on this issue
- Showcase provincial best practices (e.g. Nova Scotia's zero waste approach)
- Address the export of waste from developed countries to developing countries

Context and Challenges - Waste

The challenge of managing “waste” is growing as the world’s population increases and more resource intensive lifestyles are adopted by an increasing percentage of the global population. At CSD 18-19 governments will have the opportunity to re-evaluate the very concept of waste and we encourage Canada to approach this thematic issue from a zero-waste perspective (i.e. that “waste is just a resource in the wrong place.”)

The need to develop strong waste management systems can be seen as an opportunity. Effective systems can create jobs, contribute material and financial resources back to the economy, recover and prevent greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate health impacts. For instance, Nova Scotia achieved its celebrated waste management approach in part by having job creation as a major driver of its strategy.

Strong waste management strategies will require efforts in many areas including: focusing on both producer responsibility and consumer behaviour; addressing a range of material streams including organic waste, construction and demolition waste, and hazardous materials; taking a mix of policy approaches from regulation to voluntary to financial incentives; supporting appropriate transportation and processing infrastructure; and ensuring greater consumer transparency such as using ecolabels.

Looking at this issue through an SCP lens, waste management should operate under a hierarchy where prevention should be the first and optimal solution. Prevention strategies should be based on the polluter pays principle, should include extended producer responsibility and should be addressed through life-cycle product management beginning at the design phase. Opportunities for material reuse should be encouraged. Waste that is unpreventable should be recycled. To facilitate this approach, separation as well as separate collection of waste should be put into practice. Disposal should be restricted to waste that can not be reused or recycled. The potential negative implications of incineration must be thoroughly considered.

Governments, producers and consumers must all play a role in waste prevention. Policy makers can: adopt regulation; use financial mechanisms to ensure that the true costs of waste disposal are reflected (such as levies that make recycling equally if not more appealing than disposal); develop consumer labelling systems; establish accounting systems that account for less waste being produced in the first place rather than simply rewarding waste that is recycled or otherwise diverted; foster responsible consumer behaviour; and establish requirements for extended producer responsibility.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR), particularly responsibility that places the onus on the individual producer rather than a collective of producers, can be a key driver of waste prevention and toxics reduction, and it can ensure a more fair distribution of the costs of waste management and provide opportunities for significant innovation. Canadian NGOs would like to see EPR as a major emphasis of discussion at CSD 18-19.

For waste that is generated, waste management systems should ensure that materials are dealt with locally. This encourages local job creation and reduces greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and requires that both producers and consumers adopt responsibility for their actions. A major emphasis of CSD should be to ensure that the international trade of waste, and the hazardous materials that it contains, is minimized. This will include ensuring that countries are signatory to and operating under international agreements such as the Basel Convention and Basel Amendment.

A major emerging global concern is that of electronic waste (e-waste). The amount of electronic products discarded globally has skyrocketed, with 20-50 million tonnes generated every year. E-waste is the fastest growing component of the municipal solid waste stream in both industrialized and developing countries and it is of particular concern because discarded electronics contain a wide range of toxic and hazardous materials including heavy

metals and organic compounds. Players in many industrialized countries continue to export, often illegally, hazardous electronic waste to developing countries in Asia and Africa. While the e-waste trade contributes to local economies and livelihoods, low-tech methods of waste management, including manual disassembly and open burning to remove valuable metals, pollute local environments and cause significant negative health impacts on workers and local residents.

CSD 18-19 should focus on ensuring that a framework is in place for the sustainable international management of e-waste. Countries should work together to advance international agreements and domestic legislation that ensure social and environmental protection while supporting livelihoods and economic capacity. EPR will be a crucial component of this strategy and can be attractive to producers as many discarded electronic products contain valuable materials such as aluminum, copper, and precious metals. In addition, industrialized countries should support the development of infrastructure in developing countries to safely manage this waste.

Importantly, women and children are frequently involved in informal waste management as waste pickers and processors, where they are exposed to health and safety hazards. The international community should encourage the advancement of appropriate technologies and mechanisms to ensure worker and community safety. Canadian NGOs also believe that nuclear waste needs to be addressed and that support needs to be provided to countries that have a stockpile of hazardous waste.

The Youth Survey reveals that respondents are not satisfied with the Government of Canada's efforts to protect air and water quality from impacts from waste materials.

PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION

Aspirations for CSD

- Study impacts of marine transportation on marine water quality and air quality
- Evaluate methods to support municipalities' sustainable infrastructure development and support public transportation
- Promote land use planning that encourage denser cities, making public transport and non-motorized transportation (e.g. walking, cycling) more viable
- Showcase recent gains in North America in promoting non-motorized transportation and recognize public health benefits of these modes
- Analyze the vulnerabilities of the existing transportation infrastructure to energy price spikes and future greenhouse gas constraints
- Encourage localized production to decrease the amount of transport related to food and other goods

Context and Challenges - Transportation

The movement of people and goods has significant impacts due to the intensive use of resources at multiple levels (e.g., infrastructure, fuel). Transportation results in emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, as well as noise and impacts on the quality of life, human health, and the environment. Generally, Canadian NGOs support emphasis on the target areas identified by CSD Chair Dr. Luis Alberto Ferraté, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala:

1. promoting public transportation, thereby reducing costs and enabling energy savings,
2. promoting cleaner transport such as maritime, rail and rivers,^{ix}
3. increasing research and development of engines and machines that use energy more efficiently and reduce greenhouse gases, and

4. preventing and reducing socio-environmental impacts arising from increased traffic, transport and physical infrastructure. Raising awareness among transport users requires effective education policies, strategies and programs that will encourage demand for more efficient transportation systems and infrastructure for land, sea, and air.

Addressing these issues will be a challenge, but a challenge that can be met especially by building on the many success stories from Canada and across North America.

As the time this paper is being drafted, Vancouver is demonstrating the potential for public transportation in Canada. During the heavily visited Winter Olympic Games, Vancouver managed to decrease car usage by 30% while doubling transit usage (without major service disruptions).^x This clearly demonstrates the potential of public transportation in Canada, if properly funded and promoted.

The linkage between building denser, better “planned” cities and public transportation feasibility (the ability to construct and operate systems that generate adequate revenue and ridership) should be recognized by CSD. Promotion of transit and non-motorized transportation is highly effective. Recently, New York City built 200 miles of bicycle lanes and accompanying facilities (e.g. bike racks), resulting in a 45% increase in cycling.^{xi} Increased rates of walking and cycling are linked to improved public health as shown in a recent US study which found:

States with the lowest levels of biking and walking have, on average, the highest rates of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure. In contrast states with the highest levels of biking and walking have, on average, the lowest rates of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure.^{xii}

Cycling infrastructure investments also pay economic dividends, as show by a recent analysis of Quebec’s “La Route Verte.”^{xiii}

Canadian NGOs have expressed concern about the increasing distances that food and other goods travel. Such travel arrangements are commonplace for basic necessities, straining efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and rendering goods that are basic to human needs vulnerable to spikes in energy prices and unforeseen crises in other parts of the globe. While policy-makers often cite economic benefits of “trade”, this neglects the economic benefits and job creation inherent in investments in local production.

The Youth Caucus survey ranked transport as the second most important issue being address at CSD. Youth would like to see more funding in forms of public transit that reduce environmental impact (hydrogen buses).

- ⁱ This paper was primarily written by Randy Christensen of Ecojustice. Carolyn Webb of CIELAP edited the paper. Sarah Heiberg oversaw the production of the paper. The paper was written with the input of many of the member groups of the RCEN.
- ⁱⁱ "Conserving Biodiversity Through Sustainable Production and Consumption", 9 Oct. 2007. www.ceeweb.org
- ⁱⁱⁱ Global Footprint Network: http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/world_footprint/
- ^{iv} The Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) is the signature product of the Institute of Wellbeing. The CIW is a new way of measuring wellbeing that goes beyond narrow economic measures like GDP. This index will provide unique insights into the quality of life of Canadians – overall, and in specific areas that matter: our standard of living, our health, the quality of our environment, our education and skill levels, the way we use our time, the vitality of our communities, our participation in the democratic process, and the state of our arts, culture and recreation. Found at: <http://www.ciw.ca/en/TheCanadianIndexOfWellbeing.aspx>
- ^v General: Question 1

1. Out of the five themes that will be discussed at the CSD 18/19, which two themes do you consider most important?	
SPC patterns	87
waste management	37
mining	27
chemicals	28
transport	48

- ^{vi} Notice for "CSD 18 Thematic Series – Mining" found online at: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_mini_ss0210.shtml
- ^{vii} "Asbestos Mortality: A Canadian Export", Can. Med. Assoc. J., OCTOBER 21, 2008, found at: <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/179/9/871>.
- ^{viii} Ibid.
- ^{ix} Canadian NGOs note that it is necessary to examine the negative impacts of such forms of transportation (e.g., impacts on water quality and air quality in port cities related to marine transportation).
- ^x "Vancouver transit posts record-breaking ridership" *Globe and Mail* (February 18, 2010) Found online at: <http://www.ctvolympics.ca/about-vancouver/news/newsid=46117.html#vancouver+transit+posts+record+breaking+ridership> (last accessed February 22, 2010).
- ^{xi} "200 Miles of Bicycle Routes in Three Years", NYC Dept. of Trans., found at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bicyclists/bikenetwork.shtml>.
- ^{xii} *Bicycling and Walking in the US: Benchmark Report*, Alliance for Biking and Walking (Jan. 2010), Found online at: <http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/memberservices/C529>.
- ^{xiii} "Québec, Canada has also seen a measurable impact of bicycle tourism on its economy. In 2000, Province-wide spending by bicyclists totalled \$166 million. The Québec bicycle industry generated sales over \$181 million, supporting 2,800 jobs and generating \$17.2 in tax revenues for Québec and \$13.6 million in national taxes. To draw tourists and encourage cycling, Quebec developed a network of 2,702 miles of bicycle paths and roadway routes called La Route Verte, which is promoted as the "best bicycle route in the world." In 2000, when only part of the route was complete, La Route Verte cyclists spent a total of \$95.4 million, corresponding to approximately 2,000 jobs and \$15.1 million in tax revenue for Québec and \$11.9 million for the Government of Canada. In 2005, bicycle tourists spent \$83 a day, more than other tourists' average of \$66." *Economic Benefits of Cycling Infrastructure*, American Bike League (June 2009) found online at: http://www.bikeleague.org/resources/reports/pdfs/economic_benefits_bicycle_infrastructure_report.pdf.