

## **CEN Mining Caucus Review of Activities for 2004**

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**Mining Caucus Coordinator:** Chantal Bois

**National Council Representative:** Maggie Paquet, Citizens Stewardship Council

**Mining Caucus Chair:** Melanie Quevillon, Mining Watch Canada and  
Brennain Lloyd, Northwatch

**Steering Committee:**

- Sue Moodie, Yukon Conservation Society
- Randy Fleming, Interchurch Uranium Committee/Sask
- Jaime Kneen, MiningWatch Canada
- Amy Crook, Environmental Mining Council of BC
- Brenda Kelley, Bathurst Sustainable Development

**Activities of the Mining Caucus**

**National Working Group on Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee (NOAMI)**

In September 2001, the Mines Ministers asked that a National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee be struck to address issues around capacity for a national inventory of active, closed, and orphaned/abandoned mine sites; definitions and terminology as applied to orphaned and abandoned sites; fostering community involvement in decision-making about closure and reclamation standards, evaluating various approaches to removing barriers to collaboration with respect to abandoned mine cleanup and evaluating models and mechanisms to pay for the remediation of orphaned/abandoned mines.

Joan Kuyek, MiningWatch Canada, was selected to be the chair of the sub-committee on community involvement. CCSG Consulting did a report for this sub-committee to scope the issues of community involvement and set out possible case studies, subsequently they won the bid for a contract to do "lessons learned" on four case studies: Mount Washington, Giant, Deloro, and Sydney Tar Ponds. There was excellent collaboration by everybody for all but the Sydney Tar Ponds case, which was met with great resistance from Environment Canada and not included in the final report. The sub-committee has produced a brochure which, while it is green and glossy (giving the impression that so much is being done and orphaned and abandoned mines aren't a problem), it does include all of the recommendations in the CCSG report.

Brennain Lloyd from Northwatch sits on the "financial barriers to collaboration" sub-committee. Kevin O'Reilly from the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee was selected to sit on the funding models task group.

### **Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND)**

MEND is a research program that deals with issues related to acid mine drainage and metals leaching. It has been in existence since 1989 and is run by Natural Resources Canada. This is largely a technical committee that deals with technology transfer. Representatives from government, industry and ENGOs sit on this committee. Academics have attended recent workshops.

Catherine Coumans from MiningWatch Canada (Eastern Representative) and Amy Crook from the Center for Science in Public Participation (Western Representative) are the two ENGO representatives selected by the CEN to sit on the MEND steering committee. The MEND SC meets face-to-face twice a year.

### **Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMERs)**

Environment Canada invited CEN to nominate up to 7 ENGO representatives to a workshop on possible amendments to the MMER, which was held in Ottawa, November 2004. As an outcome of this workshop, EC is forming a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) to review the possible amendments. This will be a 2 years project. 4 ENGO representatives will be part of MAG. A funding proposal was sent to insure communication between the selected ENGOs and the Mining Caucus members as well as insuring funds for research and reporting.

### **Towards Sustainable Mining**

The Mining Association of Canada has started the “Towards Sustainable Mining” initiative. Brenda Kelly, Bathurst Sustainable Development, and Elizabeth May, Sierra Club of Canada, are the ENGO representatives to the Advisory Panel. Still ongoing.

### **CEN Meeting with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)**

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Brigitte Gagné (CEN Executive Director), Chantal Bois (CEN National Caucus Coordinator), Alan Young (Mining Caucus Chair), Catherine Coumans (Mining Caucus member) met with Denis Lagacé, (NRCan Director General for the Mineral and Metal Policy Branch) and his colleagues from the Minerals and Metals Sector at NRCan. This first meeting was part of a process that aims to strengthen the long-standing relationship between NRCan and the CEN. Further, it aimed to improve the effectiveness of CEN - NRCan interaction and involvement in policy development, consultations and programs. This was a first step towards a better understanding of our mutual institutions that will hopefully allow us to discuss our expectations, understand our internal processes and develop a framework and indicators for meaningful ENGO involvement.

Unfortunately, we did not have time to follow-up on the initiative this year, but feel that it would be important to do so in 2005.