

2008-09 RCEN Mining Caucus Steering Committee

[Randy Fleming](#) (Co-Chair), Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative, SK
[Jamie Kneen](#) (Co-Chair), Mining Watch Canada, ON
[Amy Crook](#), Environmental Mining Council of BC, BC
[Brennain Lloyd](#), Northwatch, ON
[Peter Ormond](#), Conserver Society of Hamilton and District, ON
[Linda Sheppard Whalen](#), Centre for Long-Term Environmental Action in Newfoundland and Labrador, NL

Mining Caucus – Highlights/Summary for 2008 RCEN Annual Report

The mining caucus of the RCEN is composed of the environmental organizations most active and informed about mining concerns in Canada, addressing both domestic and international mining issues. The RCEN mining caucus builds the necessary bridges to advance responsible mining concepts, policies, programs and practices by sharing information, building capacity among the member groups, and networking around key policy, program and regulatory developments related to mining and mine-impacts

This year Environment Canada led three stakeholder consultations on Schedule II amendments to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER) of the Fisheries Act in order for natural water bodies to be reclassified and used for the disposal of mine tailings. There were a total of five consultation sessions for two mining operations: the Carol and Scully mines in Labrador, and two separate mining project proposals for a nickel processing facility in Long Harbour Newfoundland and one for a molybdenum mine in Ruby Creek British Columbia.

In 2008, the RCEN selected a total of 12 delegates and four alternates to the MMER consultations and also selected 8 ENGO representatives to attend the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative (NOAMI) Workshop on Risk Assessment in Vancouver, BC.

The Mining Caucus Steering Committee met five times via teleconference and hosted two successful caucus meetings this year, one at the RCEN AGA in Toronto and a second in conjunction with the NOAMI workshop in BC. Many members of the mining caucus were brought together with members of other RCEN national caucuses, aboriginal organizations and social justice groups on several teleconferences throughout the year to share information and perspectives on the use of lakes and rivers for the disposal of mine wastes.

In 2009, The RCEN Mining Caucus will continue to engage with Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on proposals to make additions to the MMER Schedule II list of mines using water bodies for tailings impoundment, and will focus a significant amount of energy on this topic as well as on other high priority mining issues.

Mining Caucus 2008 Annual Report

Activities from Caucus Coordinators' Monthly Reports

April 2008

- Coordinated [Steering Committee teleconference](#) held April 18, 2008. Items addressed included: concerns over Environment Canada's MMER consultations letter of invitation, Steering Committee elections, annual reporting and work planning
- Put out [call for Steering Committee nominations](#) April 30, 2008

[Metal Mining Effluent Regulation \(MMER\) Schedule 2 Consultations](#)

- Continued negotiations with EC around appropriate delegate selections and consultations and met with Chris Doiron at EC to build our working relationship
- Put out call for a roster of delegates to select from for consultations through until March 31, 2009
- Selected the 5 delegates from previous Feb 20 Doris North and Meadowbank projects information session for May 14 Carol and Scully mines consultation

May 2008

- [2008/09 Mining Caucus Steering Committee](#) established with new member [Peter Ormond](#) Conserver Society of Hamilton and District in ON
- Completed draft of 2007 Mining Caucus Annual Report and Mining Caucus written section for 2007 RCEN Annual Report

[Metal Mining Effluent Regulation \(MMER\) Schedule 2 Consultations](#)

- Coordinated and facilitated delegate preparatory teleconference in conjunction with Caucus Steering Committee, the delegate roster and all interested members held May 6 for Carol and Scully Mines NL consultation held in Ottawa May 14
- Put out a Call for a roster of delegates for consultations through until March 31, 2009 which closed in early May but has been re-opened and will remain an open call until March 31, 2009.
- Currently have built a roster of 14 delegates to select from for consultations through until March 31, 2009
- Selected 8 delegates overall for 4 positions (2 were unavailable, so the alternate Daniel Green was moved into the 3rd spot, the selection committee was re-engaged to select the 4th spot and 2 new alternates for risk management purposes) for the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company NL consultations taking place June 10 in Long Harbour NL and June 12 in Ottawa.

June 2008

- Coordinated Mining Caucus [Steering Committee teleconference](#) held June 19, 2008. Randy Fleming, Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative, SK will remain as Chair while Steering Committee searches for a Co-chair. Caucus priorities for 2008 include: MMER consultations and coalition activities, building the mining caucus steering committee to include membership from the East, from QC and aboriginal representation, review of federal government subsidies to the mining industry, continued work with the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines initiative, continued work with the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage initiative, cultivating symbiotic relationships with some of Canada's major mining-related research centers, investigating funding opportunities for face-to-face caucusing, priority research initiatives and other priorities

[Metal Mining Effluent Regulation \(MMER\) Schedule 2 Consultations](#)

- Coordinated and facilitated delegate preparatory teleconference in conjunction with Caucus Steering Committee, the delegate roster and all interested members held June 4 for Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Long Harbour NL consultations held in Long Harbour and Ottawa on June 10 and 12
- Coordinated and facilitated delegate follow-up teleconference in conjunction with Caucus Steering Committee, the delegate roster and all interested members held June 30, 2008 for Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Long Harbour NL consultations

[Metal Mining Effluent Regulation \(MMER\) Schedule 2 Coalition](#)

- Coordinated and facilitated a [mining caucus strategy teleconference](#) held June 18, 2008
- Coordinated and facilitated a [mining caucus strategy teleconference](#) held June 26, 2008

July 2008

Coordinated Mining Caucus [Steering Committee teleconference](#) held July 29. Randy Fleming and Jamie Kneen were confirmed as Co-chairs. Randy Fleming was confirmed as the new Mining Caucus National Council Rep. Other items addressed included: MMER consultations, CWS Incidental Take Regs, RCEN AGA, SC terms and membership, meeting NRCan officials.

Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) Schedule 2 Consultations

- Coordinated RCEN delegate submissions to EC due July 15 regarding the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Long Harbour NL consultations held in Long Harbour and Ottawa on June 10 and 12

Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) Schedule 2 Coalition

- Coordinated [mining caucus strategy teleconference](#) held July 10
- Coalition drafts and releases press release resulting in significant media pick-up

August 2008

- Completed draft Caucus Work plan 2008-09

September 2008

Steering Committee

- Coordinated caucus [steering committee call](#) held September 3: Steering Committee will be hosting a caucus meeting at the RCEN AGA at the end of October; RCEN delegates to the [NOAMI Advisory Committee](#) and the [MEND Steering Committee](#) will be renewed through RCEN delegate selection every 2 years. Other items addressed included: 2008 work plan, RCEN AGA, MMER consultations and working group.
- Coordinated meeting of Caucus Coordinators and Emile held Sep 24 to discuss cross-caucus consultation issues – produced briefing note summarizing the overarching elements of meaningful consultation for Susan and Emile's meeting with the Deputy Minister of Environment Canada and the ADM of Stakeholder and Aboriginal Relations
- Issued Call for Delegates, Sep 24 for [Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Perspectives on Risk Assessment under the National Orphaned Abandoned Mines Initiative \(NOAMI\)](#)

October 2008

Steering Committee

- Coordinated caucus [steering committee call](#) held October 9. Agenda was dedicated to details concerning the NOAMI Workshop in Vancouver and the RCEN AGA
- Coordinated [caucus meeting](#) at the RCEN AGA held October 26. Agenda focused on updates, MMER strategy, consultation issues with the federal government.

Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Perspectives on Risk Assessment under the National Orphaned Abandoned Mines Initiative (NOAMI)

- Coordinated delegate selection and negotiated details of the RCEN's letter of agreement with the NOAMI secretariat
- Facilitated delegate flight arrangements and hotel bookings

November 2008

Steering Committee

- Completed follow-up to the Mining Caucus meeting at RCEN AGA including minutes and resulting action items

[Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Perspectives on Risk Assessment under the National Orphaned Abandoned Mines Initiative \(NOAMI\)](#)

- Coordinated all hotel arrangements
- Workshop was held on Nov 13 and 14 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel. Coordinated a [mining caucus meeting](#) held Nov 12 at the same location in Vancouver. Items addressed included: updates, national initiatives of the mining caucus, caucus work plan, review of delegate selection and terms of service.

[Metal Mining Effluent Regulation \(MMER\) Schedule 2 Coalition / Public Campaign Group](#)

Responsibility for coordinating this group has been adopted by MiningWatch Canada. I sat in on a strategy call held Nov 6. I may stop reporting on this initiative as it will likely no longer require any significant time commitment. I will continue to report on MMER Schedule 2 Consultations.

December 2008

[Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Perspectives on Risk Assessment under the National Orphaned Abandoned Mines Initiative \(NOAMI\)](#)

- Coordinated follow-up teleconference held December 15

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

- Coordinated delegate selection for Ruby Creek, BC Consultations in Atlin, BC and Ottawa to be held January 20 and 26 respectively.

January 2009

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

- Coordinated teleconference held Jan 7 with the RCEN delegates to address how to proceed with the consultations, given the situation with the Letters of Agreement, Information Packages, etc.
- Coordinated preparatory teleconferences held Jan 12 and Jan 23 for Ruby Creek, BC Consultations in Atlin, BC and Ottawa held Jan 20 and 26 respectively

February 2009

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

- Coordinated follow-up teleconference to the Ruby Creek consultations held February 3, 2009.
- Drafted letter requesting EC Mining and Processing Division partner with the RCEN to conduct an evaluation of their MMER Sched 2 stakeholder consultations, sent to delegates February 25, 2009 for their input.

March 2009

Was unsuccessful in attempt to coordinate a March Steering Committee teleconference due to conflicting schedules amongst Steering Committee members

[Mine Environment Neutral Drainage \(MEND\) Steering Committee and National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative \(NOAMI\) Advisory Committee](#)

Issued Calls for Delegates and alternates to the [MEND Steering Committee](#) and [NOAMI Advisory Committee](#) on March 26, 2009.