

RCEN Mining Caucus 2009-10 Workplan

2009-10 RCEN Mining Caucus Steering Committee:

[Peter Ormond](#), Conserver Society of Hamilton and District, ON

[Linda Sheppard Whalen](#), Centre for Long-Term Environmental Action in Newfoundland and Labrador, NL

[Ramsey Hart](#), MiningWatch Canada, ON

[Amy Crook](#), Centre for Science in Public Participation, BC

[Brennain Lloyd](#), Northwatch, ON

[Brenda Kelley](#), Bathurst Sustainable Development, NB

Caucus Mandate

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

Work Plan Vision

In 2009, The RCEN Mining Caucus will continue to engage with Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on proposals to re-classify natural water bodies as tailings impoundments through regulatory amendment to Schedule II of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations of the Fisheries Act. The caucus will continue in its roles with the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Steering Committee and the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Advisory Committee and will continue to monitor high priority mining issues.

National Mining Policy Development Activity

The Mining Caucus will continue to participate in:

Metal Mining Effluent Regulations Schedule II Consultations

- Conducting delegate selections on an as-requested basis
- Supporting ongoing communication among past and present MMER Schedule II delegates and the broader MMER reference group
- Sharing information about these projects across RCEN caucus memberships (eg. Water Caucus, EPA Caucus)

Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Program (MEND)

- Plan spending of \$10,000 from the MEND Secretariat
- Build a roster of ENGOs who can review the scientific research papers that are commissioned by MEND
- Develop a proposal for scientific research funded by MEND
- Review MEND delegate Catherine Coumans' comments to the Steering Committee

Mining Sector Sustainability Table

- Maintain as a watching brief on behalf of RCEN delegates

Environmental Code of Practice for Mining

- Maintain as a watching brief on behalf of RCEN delegates
- Inactive file, need to update with Chris Doiron

National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative (NOAMI)

- Renew delegation by selecting a new representative in the first of a series of biennial delegate selections, with two delegates on alternating two-year terms
- Conduct delegate selections for NOAMI workshops on an as-needed basis

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

- Maintain as a watching brief on behalf of RCEN delegates
- How will civil society be engaged?
- Engage Catherine Coumans regarding civil society engagement

Project Initiatives

Metal Mining Effluent Regulations:

- Seek a review of the MMER amendment process with the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations (SJCSR) or similarly name body with this mandate
 - Prompt the MMER delegates to review the evaluation request letter to Mining and Processing – need to consider are we asking them to do an internal review or to bring in a consultant? and are we suggesting they set up an advisory committee or overview committee?
- continue to provide a forum for coalition building and strategizing around this issue

NPRI:

- Pursue waste rock and tailings in NPRI reporting

Other:

- Possible caucus activities pertaining to the review of federal government subsidies to the mining industry
- Cultivate 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