

MINING CAUCUS ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

Metal Mining Effluent Regulation Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

The four ENGO participants in the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MMER-MAG) participated in the face-to-face meeting that was held in Saskatoon, Sask. on May 18, 2006. Randy Fleming (Inter Church Uranium Committee Education Co-operative) and Judy Parkman (Recycling Organization Against Rubbish) participated in person while Maggie Paquet (Citizens' Stewardship Coalition) and Catherine Coumans (Mining Watch Canada) participated by teleconference. The four MMER-MAG ENGOs also prepared an ENGO Perspective Report (written by Catherine Coumans and Maggie Paquet) in advance of the face-to-face meeting and four teleconferences were held with the MMER-MAG Reference Group ENGOs during the year. The MMER-MAG contract with Environment Canada ended on September 30, 2006.

Listserv activity with ENGOs and citizens in Newfoundland and Labrador concerned with the Aur Resources project to add Duck Pond near Buchans, NL to Schedule 2 of the MMER was ongoing. ENGOs from across Canada participated in the listserv and provided support to NL in building community awareness about the effects of using Duck Pond as a tailing impoundment area.

National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative Workshop

The RCEN has had two delegates on NOAMI since its inception, Brennain Lloyd (North Watch) and Joan Kuyek (Mining Watch Canada), who helped plan the workshop mentioned below. The RCEN selected 9 delegates to participate in "Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Best Practices" under the National Orphaned Abandoned Mines Initiative (NOAMI) which was held October 26-27, 2006, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Based on a "lessons learned" approach, the multi-stakeholder workshop tackled the issues head-on through a series of themes that highlight current best practices in both Canada and internationally. Through the presentations and resulting discussions, participants identified possible elements of a potential "tool kit" of best practices to address the legacy issues of orphaned/abandoned mine sites with a view to explore and understand the best, emerging and innovative practices relating to the management of orphaned and abandoned mines. The NOAMI workshop also provided the opportunity to hold a face-to-face meeting of the mining caucus.

The full list of ENGO delegates to the workshop is on the [Closed Consultations webpage](#).

Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Program

Catherine Coumans (Mining Watch Canada) and Amy Crook (Center for Science in Public Participation) continue to be the ENGO representatives within the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) Program. Catherine Coumans and Amy Crook continued to sit on the MEND Steering Committee and participated in a MEND Workshop that took place on November 29-30, 2006 in Vancouver, BC. In addition, Sue Moodie (CCSG Associates) and Dave Chambers (Center for Science in Public Participation) were contracted to review MEND technical research papers, and Sue

Moodie was contracted to conduct research for MEND. This was the first time that a RCEN member received a MEND research contract. MEND funded \$10,000 of support for public education on acid mine drainage (AMD). This funding was used to support the Ontario Environmental Network meeting, attendance for First Nation representatives to attend and present at the BC acid mine drainage annual conference and attend a week-long training class on AMD.

Mining Sector Sustainability Table

Joan Kuyek (Mining Watch Canada) and Brennain Lloyd (Northwatch) continue to be the RCEN-selected ENGO delegates on the Mining Sector Sustainability Table (MSST). One MSST meeting took place on January 16, 2006. In addition, Brennain Lloyd was actively engaged in the planning of the workshop. The MSST organized a multi-stakeholder *Workshop on Information Needs Related to the Risks and Hazards of Mine Tailings and Waste Rock* on March 21-22, 2007. Several ENGOs participated in this workshop; however the delegate selection process did not go through the RCEN, which caused a certain level of dissatisfaction among ENGO participants. The main workshop output was the ENGOs' request to the federal government (and EC in particular) to take some "core decisions" on mandatory, inventory-based reporting for mine waste facilities within a six-month period.