

RCEN Toxics Caucus

Annual Report 2006-2007

Leela Ramachandran, Caucus Coordinator

Steering Committee

Anna Tilman, STORM Coalition, ON (Co-Chair)

Delores Broten, Reach for Unbleached, BC (Co-Chair)

Dave Bennett/Denis St. Jean, Canadian Labour Congress, ??

Sandra Boswell, Allergy and Environmental Illness Group

Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association, ON

Michel Gaudet, Coalition pour les alternatives aux pesticides

John Jackson, Citizens' Network on Waste Management, ON

Sharon Labchuk, Earth Action, PEI

Bruno Marcocchio, Sierra Club of Canada, NS

Nashina Shariff, ToxicsWatch Society of Alberta, AB

Mark Winfield, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, AB

National Council Representative: John Jackson, elected in 2006 for a 3 year term

Meetings

Caucus Meeting: ??

Steering Committee teleconferences: Jan. 27, July 17, 2006; Feb 6 2007

Consultations/Activities:

1. Domestic Substances List/Categorization/Chemicals Management Plan

The RCEN signed a contract with EC for **\$44,850**, for consultations on the DSL/Categorization from August 2006- March 31 2007. This contract also included activities on the Government's new Chemicals Management Plan, which was announced in December 2006.

8 delegates were selected in August 2006:

Delores Broten, Reach for Unbleached

Hugh Benevides, CELA

Mary Richardson, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca

Anna Tilman, STORM Coalition

Kapil Khatter, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Susan Sang, York Region Conservation Alliance

Fe de Leon, CELA

Vijay Cuddeford, World Wildlife Fund Canada

Jessica Ginsburg, CELA – replaced Hugh Benevides in January 2007 when he went on parental leave

- These delegates attended a **meeting with EC and HC** in Ottawa on December 15, 2006.

- They attended **Stakeholder Workshops on the CMP** in Ottawa on February 12 and 27, 2007.
- **Six ENGO reports** were submitted to Environment Canada and Health Canada in February and March 2007, and posted to the RCEN website.

Along with these delegates, another 4 delegates were selected in 2007 to attend the **Stakeholder Workshop** in Ottawa on February 27, 2007:

Ann Kuersten, Tantramar Environmental Alliance
Sheila Cole, Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia
Dave Stevens, CHOKED
Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba

Five ENGOs attended a **Consultation on Stakeholder Engagement under the CMP** in Ottawa on March 27, 2007:

- Anna Tilman, Fe de Leon, Vijay Cuddeford, Sheila Cole and Sandra Madray.
- The RCEN produced minutes of the March 27 meeting and ENGO participants submitted reports that were posted on the RCEN website.

2. CEPA Review

- RCEN created a CEPA Review Committee and Steering Committee, which communicated regularly via email and held teleconferences on December 4th, 2006 and January 25, 2007
- Kiriaki Cocolakis was hired as a CEPA Coordinator in the RCEN National Office from September 2006-February 2007
- ENGO members of the CEPA Review Committee made written submissions and presented at Parliamentary CEPA Review committee meetings in Ottawa (see Appendix A for dates and participants at House of Commons and Senate Committee meetings)
- The RCEN CEPA Committee prepared and submitted a joint ENGO response on the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA 1999)* to the House of Commons on January 23rd, 2007 with 82 sign-ons.
- In February 2007, the CEPA Review Committee was folded back into the Toxics Caucus
- As of March 31, 2007, **\$4,255** was leftover in the RCEN CEPA budget

3. National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)

- The RCEN signed a contract with EC for **\$52,650** for NPRI that was included in the Umbrella Agreement for 2006-07.
- The RCEN selected five delegates to participate on the NPRI multi-stakeholder Work Group on Substances (WG), which participates in the process of improving the NPRI.

- Delegates attended a meeting in Ottawa February 21-22 2007, participate in ongoing subgroup meetings via teleconference, and have submitted several consolidated ENGO papers as well as ENGO position papers on subgroup issues.

The NPRI delegates are:

James W. White, Ecology Action Centre, NS

Olga Schwartzkopf, Soil & Water Conservation Society, BC Chapter

Anne Mitchell, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy CIELAP, ON

Anna Tilman, STORM Coalition, ON

John Jackson, Citizens' Network on Waste Management , ON

4. Environmental Assessment Working Group (EAWG) on Substances under the Food and Drug Act

- A Contract for **\$18,975** over three years was included under the RCEN – EC umbrella contribution agreement for 2006-07. As of March 31, 2007, RCEN invoiced for **\$3,853**.
- The RCEN selected three ENGO delegates and one alternate to participate on the Environmental Assessment Working Group (EAWG), a multi-stakeholder working group that will provide advice to Health Canada and Environment Canada regarding the development of appropriate regulations for the assessment of new substances contained in products regulated under the Food & Drugs Act. Additional ENGO delegates will serve on a number of EAWG sub-committees.
- The first EAWG meeting was held in Ottawa on March 26-28, 2007.
- The ENGO delegates are:
 - Kathleen Cooper, CELA
 - Maria Castro, Beyond Factory Farming Coalition
 - Kapil Khatter, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
 - Alternate: Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba

5. New Substances Notification Regulations (NSNR)

- A contribution agreement was signed with EC in September 2005; the final invoice for **\$8958.91** was sent in August 2006.
- The RCEN selected 10 ENGO delegates to attend a two-day multi-stakeholder workshop and prepare an ENGO report on the research and development exemptions and notification requirements for organisms other than micro-organisms under the New Substances Notification Regulations (NSNR) (Organisms) of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999.
- The workshop took place on June 15–16, 2006 in Ottawa. The selected ENGO delegates were:
 - Randy Fleming (Saskatchewan Eco Network)

Delores Broten (Reach for Unbleached Foundation)
David Daughton (Eastern Co-operative Health Organization)
Harvey Scott (Edmonton Friends of the North Environmental Society)
Jessica Ginsburg (Canadian Environmental Law Association)
Mary Richardson (Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca)
Sandra Boswell (The Allergy and Environmental Illness Group)
Sandra Madray (Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba)
Maria Castro (Beyond Factory Farming Coalition)
Anna Tilman (STORM Coalition)

6. COP-2 on the Persistent Organic Pollutants Treaty (Stockholm Convention)

- No RCEN contract
- The Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) selected Fe de Leon of the Canadian Environmental Law Association as the ENGO representative for the official Canadian Delegation to the second Conference of the Parties on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (COP-2), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from May 1-5, 2006.

7. Methyl Bromide Critical Use Advisory Committee

- No RCEN Contract
- The RCEN selected 1 ENGO Delegate, Sandra Boswell of the Allergy and Environmental Illness Group, to take part in the Methyl Bromide Critical Use Advisory Committee, for a two-year mandate beginning in August 2006. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to advise and evaluate critical use exemption applications and forward to Environment Canada its recommendations concerning the applications. Most meetings will take place by conference call.

8. Distribution of information

- Caucus email list
- RCEN weekly e-bulletin

Appendix A: CEPA 1999 Parliamentary Review Meetings and ENGO witnesses, May 2006-February 2007

1. House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI)

CEPA 1999 Review Meetings and ENGO witnesses:

December 12, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Final Roundtable](#)

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy: Maureen Carter-Whitney, PollutionWatch: Aaron Freeman, Kapil Khatter, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition: Anna Tilman.

December 11, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Interdepartmental Cooperation and Legislative Overlap](#)

PollutionWatch: Kapil Khatter. Canadian Environmental Law Association: Kathleen Cooper

December 4, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Cooperation with the Provinces, Territories and Aboriginal Peoples](#)

Reach for Unbleached Foundation: Delores Broten. Environmental Education Association of Yukon: Gregory Heming.

November 27, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Managing Substances: Implementation and Enforcement](#)

Sierra Legal Defence Fund - Toronto: Robert V. Wright. Great Lakes United: Derek R. Stack

November 20, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Assessment of Substances: Information Requirements, Burden of Proof and Disclosure](#)

Canadian Environmental Law Association: Jessica Ginsburg; Kapil Khatter.

November 6, 2006 [Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Assessment of Substances: Vulnerable Populations and Ecosystems](#)

Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Quebec: Michel Gaudet. Canadian Environmental Law Association: Kathleen Cooper. Conservation Council of New Brunswick Inc.: Inka Milewski, Environmental Defence Canada: Aaron Freeman

October 24, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Assessment of Substances: Virtual Elimination](#)

Great Lakes United: Derek R. Stack. PollutionWatch: Hugh Benevides, Kapil Khatter,

October 19, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - International Activities and Assessment of Substances](#)

Clean Production Action: Beverly Thorpe

October 17, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Assessment of Substances and Managing Substances](#)

New Brunswick Lung Association: Kenneth H. Maybee, Barbara M. MacKinnon, Environmental Defence Canada: Aaron Freeman. Canadian Environmental Law Association: Kapil Khatter.

September 26th, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Managing Substances - Use of the Word Toxic and the Domestic Substance List](#)

Pembina Institute: Matthew Bramley, Mark Winfield, PollutionWatch: Hugh Benevides

September 21st, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Measuring Success](#)

PollutionWatch: Hugh Benevides, Fe de Leon, Aaron Freeman, Kapil Khatter

June 21st, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Measuring Success](#)

International POPs Elimination Network: Jack Weinberg

June 12, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Measuring Success](#)

PollutionWatch: Kapil Khatter, Rick Smith.

June 5, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\) - Precautionary Principle](#)

Canadian Environmental Law Association: Hugh Benevides, Ivey Foundation (Toronto): Bruce A. Lourie

May 10th, 2006

[Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(CEPA\)](#)

Pollution Watch: Kapil Khatter. Great Lakes United: Derek R. Stack

2. Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources

CEPA 1999 Review Meetings and ENGO witnesses:

Thursday, June 8, 2006 8:07 am	
PollutionWatch	Kapil Khatter, Director of Health and Environment Hugh Benevides, Counsel
Sierra Legal Defence Fund	Robert Wright, Managing Counsel

Thursday, June 15, 2006 8:05 am	
Pollution Probe	Ken Ogilvie, Executive Director

Reach for the Unbleached Foundation	Delores Broten, Senior Policy Advisor
Save the Oak Ridge Moraine (STORM) Coalition	Anna Tilman, Chair

Thursday, October 5, 2006 8:40 am	
Canadian Environmental Network:	Anna Tilman, Co-Chair, Toxics Caucus
Ivey Foundation:	Bruce Lourie, President
Sierra Legal Defence Fund:	Elaine MacDonald, Staff Scientist

Tuesday, October 31, 2006 5:20 pm	
Pollution Watch	Kapil Khatter, Director of Health and Environment
Sierra Legal Defence Fund	Hugh Wilkins, Staff Lawyer

Thursday, November 9, 2006 8:12 am	
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment	Victoria Lee, Board Member
Canadian Public Health Association	Timothy Lambert, Volunteer
Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control	David Bennett, Member of the National Environmental and Occupational Exposures Committee

Tuesday, February 20, 2007 6:10 pm	
As an individual	Richard Purdy, Toxicologist
Canadian Environmental Network	Sheila Cole, Environment and Health Educator - Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia - Board of Directors, Co-Chair, Health Caucus Sandra Madray, Research and Education - Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba Caucus Member
Pollution Watch	Kapil Khatter, Director of Health and Environment Kathleen Cooper, Senior Researcher, CELA