

## RCEN Toxics Caucus – 2007-2008 Work Plan

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**Caucus Coordinator:** Leela Ramachandran

### **2007-2008 Steering Committee Members:**

[Anna Tilman](#), Save The Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition (STORM)

[Delores Broten](#), Reach for Unbleached

[Denis St-Jean](#), Canadian Labour Congress

[Sandra Boswell](#), The Allergy & Environmental Illness Group

[Michel Gaudet](#), The Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Quebec

[John Jackson](#), Citizens' Network on Waste Management

[Sharon Labchuk](#), Earth Action

[Bruno Marcocchio](#), Sierra Club of Canada

[Fe de Leon](#), Canadian Environmental Law Association

[Nashina Shariff](#), Toxics Watch Society Of Alberta

[Mark Winfield](#), Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development

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### **Caucus Mandate**

Members of the RCEN Toxics Caucus work toward Pollution Prevention and the Precautionary Principle in regard to toxic substances. The issues in which the caucus members are involved are primarily related to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). These include the NPRI, New Substances, assessments of substances declared toxic under the CEPA, and the Chemicals Management Plan. Caucus members are also engaged in the Review of CEPA.

### **Caucus Activities**

#### **1. Steering Committee**

-Approve Caucus Workplan for 2007-08

-Steering Committee elections: need to post call for nominations for new Steering Committee members (by May 31)

-new SC members elected for 1-year term

-continue with regular quarterly Steering Committee teleconferences (or more often as needed)

#### **2. National Toxics Caucus Meeting**

-want to invite all Caucus members to face-to-face meeting (approx 25 people?)

-discuss issues and work, coordinate efforts, plan and strategize for coming year

-need to determine date, location, budget

-could meet at AGM, or try to piggyback on another meeting – eg. face to face ENGO meeting on Chemicals Management Plan (see item #2 below)

## **Ongoing Consultations/Working Groups**

### **1. Environmental Assessment Working Group (EAWG) for substances under the Food and Drug Act**

- 3 ENGO delegates: Kapil Khatter, Kathleen Cooper, Maria Castro,
- attended March meeting in Ottawa; next meeting scheduled for Fall 2007
- two subcommittees being created in May – delegates to nominate members
- included under RCEN – EC umbrella contribution agreement for 2007-08

### **2. Chemicals Management Plan**

- 12 delegates attended Stakeholder Workshops in Ottawa in February 2007: Anna Tilman, Fe de Leon, Jessica Ginsburg, Susan Sang, Mary Richardson, , Kapil Khatter, Delores Broten, Sandray Madray, Sheila Cole, Dave Stevens, Anne Kuersten
- 5 delegates participated in consultation on stakeholder engagement in CMP in Ottawa, March 27 2007: Anna Tilman, Fe de Leon, Vijay Cuddeford, Sandray Madray, Sheila Cole
- ENGO Working Group set up in April 2007 until a contract is signed (made up of 12 delegates from February workshops)
- RCEN proposal in development for Environment Canada and Health Canada for CMP 2007-08: Expect to have core CMP Working Group who will also sit on CMP Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and Petroleum Sector Working Group. Proposal includes face-to-face ENGO meeting, around which a Toxics Caucus meeting could be organized.

### **3. National Pollutant Release Inventory Working Group**

- 5 ENGO delegates on Working Group: Anna Tilman, John Jackson, Olga Sschwartzkopf, Anne Mitchell, James White
- Subgroups:
  - CAC VOCs (Anna Tilman, Olga Schwartzkopf)
  - CAC Thresholds (Anna Tilman, Olga Schwartzkopf)
  - Alternate Thresholds (Anna Tilman, Anne Mitchell)
  - Challenges and Opportunities (John Jackson, Jim White)
  - Dioxins and Furans (John Jackson, Jim White)
- all delegates attended NPRI Working Group meeting in Ottawa, February 2007
- next meeting in Vancouver in June 2007 (For Sub-groups only – WG will meet via teleconference), followed by face to face meeting in November 2007
- included under RCEN – EC umbrella contribution agreement for 2007-08

### **4. CEPA Review**

- RCEN CEPA Caucus folded back into Toxics Caucus as of March 2007
- House Environment Committee Report tabled in May 2007
- Senate Committee report due in October 2007

- need to assemble core group of ENGOs interested in responding
- potentially use some funds for ENGO response to House Report?

#### **5. Technical Expert Group for Screening Assessments of Living Organisms on the DSL**

- one delegate selected in April 2007: Maria Castro, Beyond Factory Farming
- first face to face meeting will be in May-June, followed by quarterly teleconferences
- included under RCEN – EC umbrella contribution agreement for 2007-08

#### **6. Pest Management Advisory Council**

- one candidate selected in April 2007, to be approved by Minister of Health: Sandra Madray, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba (alternate: Susan Sang, York Region Environmental Alliance)
- first meeting would be in Fall 2007; bi-annual meetings

#### **7. COP-3: Third meeting of the parties on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

- Fe de Leon, CELA, selected to attend COP-3 meeting in Dakar, Senegal, April 30-May 4 2007
- included under RCEN – EC umbrella contribution agreement for 2007-08

#### **8. New Substance Notification Regulations (NSNR)**

- Environment Canada planning next workshop for Fall 2007
- RCEN delegates to be determined