

RCEN Toxics Caucus Annual Report 2008-2009
April 2009

Caucus Chair:

Anna Tilman, STORM Coalition, ON

Steering Committee Members:

Sandra Boswell, The Allergy & Environmental Illness Group, PEI

Delores Broten, Reach for Unbleached, BC

John Jackson, Citizens Network on Waste Management, ON

Bruno Marccochio, Sierra Club of Canada, NS

Michel Gaudet, The Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Quebec, QC

Dave Stevens, Community Health Opposition to Known Emissions Dangers (CHOKED), BC

Anne Kuersten, Tantramar Environmental Alliance, NB

Olga Speranskaya, KAN Center for Environment and Development, ON

The [Toxics Caucus](#) Steering Committee held teleconferences on April 4, June 6, September 11, 2008 and on January 12, 2009. Few Caucus members were able to attend the RCEN AGA in October 2008; therefore no national caucus meeting took place for this fiscal year. Steering Committee elections were held in May-June 2008.

Consultations:

Caucus members participated in the following consultations. All consultations are with Environment Canada unless otherwise indicated. For more information on a given consultation, please follow the link to the relevant consultations page on the RCEN website.

1. [Methyl Bromide Critical Use Advisory Committee](#): (under the Montreal Protocol): Anna Tilman of STORM Coalition participated in this multi-stakeholder Committee, which reviewed applications for exemptions and met by teleconference on September 23, 2008 to provide recommendations to Environment Canada.
2. [NGO Advisory Committee to the RCEN-ED Chemicals Management Plan NGO Capacity Building project](#): In 2007, RCEN have selected two ENGO delegates (Anna Tilman and Fe de Leon) plus an alternate (Mary Richardson) to serve on a national Non-Government Organization (NGO) Advisory Committee to the RCEN-ED Chemicals Management Plan NGO Capacity Building project. Since then, the AC has grown to include representatives from four ENGOs (Sandra Madray), two labor groups (Sean Griffin and Andrew King), four health groups (Claire Checkland, Warren Foster, Barbara McElgunn and Gordon Albright) and two aboriginal groups (Soha Kneen and Don Sharp). The AC establishes common priorities and collaborative workplans for civil society activities and responses in relation to the CMP Challenge Program. These priorities and workplans inform the work of the Technical Experts, as well as that of individual NGOs.
3. [Environment Canada and Health Canada's Stakeholder Advisory Council for the Chemicals Management Plan](#): Fe de Leon of CELA and Anne Kuersten of Tantramar Environmental Alliance are delegates to this multi-stakeholder Council which focuses on the program implementation of the CMP. Cassandra Polyzou, replaced by Janelle Witzel of Environmental Defence were also invited directly by Environment Canada to replace Khapil Katter on the Council after he left in September 2008. The Council met 3 times this fiscal year: May 30 and November 25, 2008, and January 30, 2009.

4. **Environmental Assessment Working Group on substances under the Food and Drugs Act – and Subcommittees:** Kapil Khatter, Maria Castro, and Sandra Madray attended EAWG meetings in Ottawa on June 3, 4, 2008. Gail Krantzberg (Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment) was elected to the EAWG in December 2008. Maureen Carter-Whitney (Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy), Maria and Sandra attended the EAWG meeting in Ottawa, February 11, 2009. Kapil, Maria, Maureen and Sandra also sit on other EAWG subcommittees - In Commerce List, Pharmaceuticals/ Medical Radio Devices/Veterinary Drugs, and Cosmetics. These sub-committees meet regularly via teleconferences and in person meetings. The Natural Health Products subcommittee elected members: Jackie Campbell - (Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, ON; Lobie Daughton - Eastern Co-operative Health Organization, PEI; Sandra Madray - Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, MB with Fe de Leon - Canadian Environmental Law Association as the alternate. All members are waiting on confirmation to the subcommittee from the government. The next full EAWG face-to-face meeting is scheduled for June 17-18, 2009, in Ottawa.
5. **International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) Meeting in Toronto – Follow Up:** Resulting from the RCEN-IPEN co-hosted meeting in Toronto (January 23-25 2008), members of engaged Canadian NGOs submitted a proposal to Environment Canada for a Canadian NGO workshop on SAICM in early 2008. This proposal, identifying opportunities for Canadian NGOs to engage in global chemicals management processes, was turned down.
6. **National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) Work Group:** Anna Tilman, John Jackson, Olga Schwartzkopf, Anne Mitchell, and James White sit on the NPRI WG and several subgroups. The WG met in St. John's on June 9-10, 2008 and in Ottawa on February 19, 2009. The WG also met by teleconference on July 9, 2008. Another teleconference will take place in the spring 2009. The future role of this WG is undetermined.
7. **Pest Management Advisory Council:** In October 2007, Sandra Madray - Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, was accepted for a one year and not a two year term with Health Canada's Pest Management Advisory Council (PMAC). PMAC reports directly to the Minister and gives advice to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Sandra attended the PMAC meeting in Ottawa May 22-23, 2008. There was a delay in being re-elected to PMAC so neither she nor her alternate, Susan Sang - York Region Environmental Alliance, was able to attend the PMAC meeting in December 2008, in Ottawa. As of April 2009, Sandra is still waiting to be re-elected and was unable to attend a PMAC teleconference call in March 2009. She was dropped from the mailing list and was not initially aware of the teleconference call. The regular May 2009 PMAC meeting has been cancelled and may be rescheduled for September 2009.
8. **Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) Working Group Meeting:** No RCEN delegate selection was completed for the 2009 SMOC meeting; however, several RCEN members (Anna Tilman, John Jackson, Sandra Madray and Gabrielle Kretschmar) attended the meeting, hosted by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation. The "Stakeholder Meeting of the Sound Management of Chemicals Working Group" took place in San Antonio, Texas on April 1-2, 2009.
9. **Technical Expert Group** on screening assessments of living organisms on the Domestic Substances List (TEG): Maria Castro, Beyond Factory Farming, has been

participating as the ENGO member in this Technical Expert Group since its inception in May 2007, and in 2008 to date has attended one face to face meeting on November 4, 2008 in Ottawa, as well as teleconferences on April 8 and June 17, 2008 and April 15, 2009. The screening assessment is a scientific evaluation of whether an existing substance is entering or may enter the environment in a quantity, concentration or under conditions that may become harmful to human health or the environment. The Technical Expert Group (TEG) advises the NSP on the Screening Assessment Project to ensure that the proposed process, intended outcomes and guideline documents are scientifically sound and transparent. It is expected to continue its work until at least 2012. The First Progress Report details the activities of the TEG from its first meeting in September 2007 through to November 2008 and will be made available on the Environment Canada website shortly.

10. **Stakeholder Information Session on Risk Assessments under the Chemicals Management Plan – Teleconference**: Through the CMP Capacity Building Project Issues Log, several technical questions related to the CMP Challenge initiative were raised and brought to the attention of Environment (EC) and Health Canada (HC). In January 2009, the RCEN selected five NGO delegates to take part in a teleconference call to answer these questions raised by the participants in the Chemical Management Plan (CMP) Capacity Building Project (summer 2008) on approaches to risk assessment and basis for conclusions under the Challenge initiative.
11. **Stakeholder Information Session on Risk Assessments under the Chemicals Management Plan – Workshop**: Through similar process to the Teleconference, the RCEN selected two ENGO delegates (Anna Tilman and Sandra Madray) to participate in a multi-stakeholder workshop (including health and environmental NGOs, industry, Environment Canada, and Health Canada representatives) in Ottawa in April 2009. This full one-day workshop will allow EC and HC to present and for participants to discuss processes and approaches to risk assessment and basis for conclusions under the Chemical Management Plan (CMP) Challenge initiative.
12. **Industry and NGO meeting with Australia: views on the Categorization process on existing chemicals under Canada's CMP**: In June 2008, RCEN selected 2 delegates and an alternate to participate in a consultation with delegates from the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment (NICNAS), Government of Australia. On June 27, 2008 in Ottawa (and by teleconference for NGOs outside the National Capital region), NGO and industry representatives engaged in discussions on the categorization activity on existing chemicals under Canada's Chemicals Management Plan. In addition to NICNAS, Environment Canada and Health Canada also participated in the meeting.
13. **Chemicals Management Plan Priority Setting Workshop (including Medium Priority substances)**: The RCEN selected four ENGO delegates (Fe de Leon, Sandra Madray, Mary Richardson and Khapil Katter/Cassandra Polyzou – with Anna Tilman as the alternate) to participate in a multi-stakeholder Priority Setting workshop on Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). Hosted jointly by Environment Canada and Health Canada on June 17-18 in Ottawa, the workshop was aimed at brainstorming and collecting input on potential priorities for the next round of work planning under the CMP, including medium priority substances.
14. **Domestic Substances List (DSL) Inventory Update and Priority Setting Workshop**: In October 2008, the RCEN selected five ENGO delegates to attend a Domestic Substances List (DSL) Inventory Update Workshop. The selected ENGO delegates (Anna Tilman, STORM

Coalition; Cassandra Polyzou, Environmental Defence; Barbara McElgunn, Learning Disabilities Association of Canada; Mary Richardson, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca; and Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association) attended a workshop designed to gather data to inform priorities for risk assessment and management activities and contribute to the Government of Canada's knowledge base of substances on the DSL. We have yet to receive proceedings or follow up from this meeting.

15. **COP 4 Stakeholder Teleconferences:** Since 1998, RCEN has assisted the federal government in identifying an ENGO member to the Canadian delegation throughout the intergovernmental negotiation sessions (INC 1-7) for POPs. When the Stockholm Convention on POPs was signed and ratified, the RCEN continued to facilitate the participation of NGO to the Canadian delegation for the first three Conferences of the Parties (COP 1-3). COP4 is fast approaching (May 4-8, 2009) and NGOs seeking discussions on public engagement in the developing the Canadian positions to COP4, including NGO representation on the Canadian delegation to COP4, have participated in two teleconferences: April 9 and 17, 2009. The delegates for these teleconferences were not selected through the RCEN process.
16. **[Forest Sector Sustainability Table \(FSST\) Water Working Group:](#)** Delores Broten, Reach for Unbleached, attended a meeting in Montreal on November 26, 2008 of the Water Working Group. The Water Working Group meeting was held to gather advice on water issues for the pulp and paper industry, specifically in relation to endocrine disruptors in effluent, but also other water issues. Members include industry, scientists, government and ENGOS.