

**Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN)  
Toxics Caucus Workplan 2008-09  
June 2008**

**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 National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), the New Substances program, assessments of substances declared toxic under CEPA, and the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). Caucus members are also engaged in the Review of CEPA.

**Caucus Activities**

**1. Steering Committee**

- May-June 08: Steering Committee elections completed and alternate term system established
- June 08: Develop Caucus Workplan for 2008-09
- Steering Committee will meet quarterly via teleconference (or more often as needed)

**2. Caucus Report: Update on Consultations**

- June-July: Delegates to each Toxics-related consultation to prepare one-page summary outlining current status of consultations, key issues and concerns, government and ENGO positions
- August: Summaries compiled and circulated to all Caucus members for use in media/outreach; posted on Caucus webpage; possible press release?
- September: all Caucus members invited to join teleconference to review document and discuss consultations, in preparation for Caucus meeting at AGA

**3. National Toxics Caucus Meeting**

- Fall 2008: aim to hold face-to-face meeting open to all Caucus members (approx 25 participants?), possibly at RCEN AGA in Toronto in October 2008
- discuss issues and work, coordinate efforts, plan and strategize for coming year
- could try to coordinate with another meeting if funding permits – eg. a workshop on international chemicals agreements

**4. Workshop on Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and international chemicals agreements**

- Building on RCEN's involvement in January 2008 IPEN meeting to plan Global NGO Outreach Campaign for SAICM, Caucus members have developed a proposal for a Canadian NGO workshop on SAICM and related agreements (eg. Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel conventions) – submitted to EC for funding
- Would create educational materials to raise awareness of SAICM and other agreements, provide Common Statement from IPEN's campaign for endorsement

- Would like to have 20-25 NGO participants; representatives from Environment Canada and Health Canada; possibly international participants from IPEN

**List of Ongoing Consultations/Working Groups that Caucus members participate in (to be included in Consultations Update Report):**

- National Pollutant Release Inventory Working Group
- Chemicals Management Plan consultations with Environment Canada/Health Canada
- RCEN and Environmental Defence contract for CMP Capacity Building
- CEPA Review
- Environmental Assessment Working Group (EAWG) for substances under the Food and Drug Act
- Technical Expert Group for Screening Assessments of Living Organisms on the DSL
- Pest Management Advisory Council
- New Substance Notification Regulations (NSNR)
- New Substances review panel
- Risk management framework for Mercury-containing products