

## Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN)

### PROPOSAL FOR BY-LAW AMENDMENT

**From: RCEN Canadian Environmental Network**

*(Note: By-law amendments may be proposed by an RCEN Affiliate Network, an RCEN National Caucus, or a member of the RCEN National Council)*

**Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

**BY-LAW SECTION TO BE AMENDED: 7.01**

7.01 - Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of 9 (nine) director positions elected by the National Council from among the Council's members, to represent the mix of skills and expertise necessary for the effective governance of the RCEN and, insofar as possible within this context, a balance of Canada's geographic, cultural and linguistic diversity. Director positions shall be allocated as follows:

- a) The Chair, who shall be the Chair of the National Council;
- b) 1 (one) representative from a National Caucus;
- c) 1 (one) representative of the Quebec affiliate;
- d) 1 (one) representative from another Provincial or Territorial Affiliate;
- e) 1 (one) Francophone representative
- f) 1 (one) Aboriginal representative
- g) 1 (one) Youth representative**
- h) 2 (two) additional representatives from the National Council**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

So, for the preamble of 7.01, **add, as the second sentence: "Insofar as possible, at least one Director shall be a Youth."** Then replace 7.01.g) with "**3 (three) additional delegates (directors at large)**" and remove 7.01 h). As with 6.01.f), g) and h), the "delegate/director at large" wording will help avoid the confusion that arises around whom they're supposed to "represent".

**ISSUE ADDRESSED:**

This suggestion is an attempt to getting Youth on the Board, because of the challenges we face every year in our search for candidates able *and willing* to serve. The majority of Board positions are strictly designated by qualifications that do not necessarily relate to governance skills or availability and inclination for governance work. The "member at large" positions are our major avenue of flexibility for filling in any gaps, and to have only two such positions limit the options. The changes suggested should strengthen our capacity to have at least one Youth member on the Board.