



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DU
DROIT ET DE LA POLITIQUE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

130 Spadina Avenue Suite 305
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2L4
Tel: (416)923-3529
Fax: (416)923-5949
www.cielap.org
cielap@cielap.org

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

April – June 2006 Newsletter

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Visit our website regularly to find out what we are working on and to view our latest publications
– www.cielap.org

Recent Publications

The Formation, Governance, Financing Mechanisms and Mandate of Public Interest, Community-based Environmental Law Centres - [access this report](#)

CIELAP's report analyzes survey results from **22 environmental law centres around the world** to gather background information about how they were established, how they are governed and financed, and how they organize themselves. The report also highlights the important role environmental law centres are playing to engage civil society.

Interesting findings include:

- While most respondents (79%) feel that their country has strong laws, only 21% feel that these laws are well implemented and enforced.
- Organizations are involved in an array of activities to meet their objectives. The main tools are research (79%), advocacy (74%), offering advice to governments (68%) and influencing policy (63%).
- Respondents feel that the most important measures for compliance with environmental laws are: strong media participation; education; and access to information.

Hazardous Waste Factsheet Publication - [access this factsheet](#)

CIELAP's four-page factsheet on Hazardous Waste is intended to provide readers with information about hazardous waste production and policy. It can be downloaded from CIELAP's website.

Background Paper and Factsheets - Innovative Technologies: Focus on Biotechnology and Nanotechnology - [access these factsheets](#)

CIELAP has put together a series of factsheets on innovative technologies as well as a background paper that compiles them.

These 5 factsheets focus on different applications of biotechnology:

- Biofuels and Biotechnology

- Genetically Engineered Trees
- Nanotechnology
- Plant Molecular Farming (PMF)
- Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) or Terminator Technology

CIELAP Knowledge Cluster Meetings

Youth and Community Engagement - April 27 2006

CIELAP works to engage youth and members of our community in environmental law and policy. Participants of the April knowledge cluster discussed how to engage young people and members of our community in the environmental debate.

Waste Incineration - May 25 2006

CIELAP is currently conducting research into waste incineration. **Maureen Carter-Whitney, CIELAP Research Director**, led our knowledge cluster session on this topic to seek input on the project from participants. **A research paper examining this issue is underway; check our website in the fall to access it.**

Make sure to check our website later in the summer for more information on our Knowledge Cluster meetings, **which will resume in August 2006.**

CIELAP Out in the Community

Anne Mitchell, CIELAP's Executive Director attended a meeting of the **Public Advisory Panel of the Canadian Plastics Industry Association** in April. The focus of the discussion was energy from waste. Anne reminded the panel of the sustainability issues that need to be addressed.

In May she and Susan Holtz, Senior Policy Analyst, participated in the **Pharma Workshop** where Susan presented CIELAP's paper entitled '**There is no Away: Pharmaceuticals personal care products and endocrine disrupting substances in water**'. In June, Anne participated in the **National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) Working Group** meetings as an ENGO delegate through the Canadian Environmental Network.

In addition, she participated in a stakeholder discussion on how to raise public awareness about the NPRI in Canada. CIELAP has been active in this area. We published a **Citizens' Guide** to the NPRI in 2000, maps indicating **pollution hotspots** across the country and some suggestions for teachers.

Maureen Carter-Whitney spoke on CIELAP's research on pharmaceuticals in water at **Freshwater for the Future**, a conference on water policy hosted by the Government of Canada's Policy Research Initiative held in Gatineau, Quebec on May 8-10, 2006.

On June 5, 2006 Maureen participated in the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Brownfield Stakeholder Group** which offers advice to government on the implementation of its brownfield laws and regulations.

Coming up! June 27-28, 2006 Maureen will make an oral statement before the **Thirteenth Regular Session of the Council of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation** in Washington, D.C. She will urge the CEC to broaden its work to address emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and products of biotechnology and nanotechnology applications.

If there is a forum that you would like CIELAP to speak at please [contact us](#) to discuss possibilities.

Volunteer and Interns Corner

CIELAP is proud to welcome our **new volunteers and interns** on board!

Craig Case is completing his degree in Environment and Resource Management at the University of Toronto. At CIELAP, he is working as a Research Associate focusing on current important issues that deal with electronic waste and nanotechnology.

Tim Fish is pursuing his law degree from Queens University and has an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering. Tim will focus on Biofuels over the course of his internship at CIELAP

Kelly Galaski will be starting her Masters in Environmental Studies at York University in the fall. At CIELAP, Kelly has been assessing the distribution and usability of CIELAP's Citizens' Guides.

Pauline Li is pursuing her Bachelor of Science at Queens University. Pauline is working to enhance CIELAP's website and make it more interactive and usable.

Zabrina Mok is working on her Masters of Environmental Studies at York University with a specialization in Sustainable Business Strategies. Zabrina has been helping CIELAP to fundraise and seek corporate sponsorship.

Nick Rolfe is studying urban planning and biology at the University of Waterloo. Nick has been helping CIELAP with a variety of tasks including an analysis of CIELAP's web presence and publication downloads.

Marlena Rogowska is going into her last year of an Environmental Studies and Political Science degree at the University of Toronto. She is currently doing an internship at CIELAP as a Capacity-Building Associate.

Simret Sidhu is a 3rd year law student at the University of Windsor. At CIELAP, she is pursuing policy analysis of the "Right to Know" for the impending review of CEPA. She is also helping CIELAP develop a framework for its biotechnology work.

Speak UP!

Comment on the latest issues of environmental concern that relate to CIELAP's work and research.

The Ontario government wants your feedback on a proposal entitled "*Designation of Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste under the Waste Diversion Act, 2002*". This proposal is posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario's **Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)** for comment until **July 09, 2006**.

The aim of the posting is to receive public feedback on the intention to require "Waste Diversion Ontario to develop a waste diversion program for municipal hazardous or special waste... This is the first step in the process that will lead to a waste diversion program for these materials."

Let the Ministry know that you support a waste diversion program for the disposal of hazardous and potentially dangerous waste by sending in your comments to: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/027728er.htm>

For more information visit the Ministry of Environment's page on the topic: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/land/WDA/mhsw.htm>

Also, the current Waste Diversion Act is available at:
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/02w06_e.htm

Upcoming Events

The Niagara Escarpment Commission's **Leading Edge Conference** will be held in Burlington, Ontario, October 4-6, 2006. This educational and interactive event features over 15 plenaries, panels and workshops as well as 25 academic presentations dealing with urban and rural planning, environmental monitoring, transportation policy, energy, economics, media, biosphere protection and much more.

Visit www.escarpment.org/leadingedge2006.htm for more information.

Contact Us

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy
130 Spadina Avenue, Suite 305
Toronto, ON M5V 2L4
Tel. (416) 923-3529 ext. 26
Fax (416) 923-5949
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For questions, comments and more information about the content of this newsletter, please contact Carolyn Webb at cielap@cielap.org.

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter; we enjoy sharing our work with you. If, however, you prefer not to receive CIELAP's newsletters in the future, please e-mail cielap@cielap.org with "unsubscribe" in the subject.