



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

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

Since/depuis 1970

## Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

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Visit the “What's New” section of our website weekly to find out what we are working on and view our latest publications – <http://www.cielap.org/index.html>

### Holiday Funding Drive

With the end of 2005 we offer a big “thank you” to everyone who has supported us – financially and in many other ways - over this past year. We would also like to appeal to everyone for further financial support. CIELAP does not receive any core funding for its work and so we rely on people like you. Please support us, on behalf of yourself or a friend or family member, and receive a tax receipt for 2005. You can donate by contacting us at [cielap@cielap.org](mailto:cielap@cielap.org) or by going to Canada Helps at <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=15198> and making your donation online.

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### Upcoming Federal Election

When you attend all party debates - or meet your candidate, consider asking him/her one of the following questions:



**Sustainability:** Canada has made a commitment to have a plan to help move the country towards a more sustainable society (At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002). This means that all policy decisions need to be integrated and address ecological and social considerations as well as economic ones. In practice, however, it seems that the economic considerations are the only deciding factor. A recent Canadian Federation of Municipalities report has concluded that Canada's footprint is four times the carrying capacity of the resources that we have available. We need to move towards a more sustainable society. Will you and your party take this need seriously? How will you provide the necessary leadership, set the priorities and engage with Canadians? What policies will you put in place to help make this happen? How will these policies be implemented and enforced? The future of our children and grandchildren is at stake.



**Water:** Canada is the steward of 20% of the world's freshwater. This is an irreplaceable common good and is priceless. This brings responsibilities. Will you and your party ensure that our water will not be privatized; that industrial users of Canada's freshwater resources water are limited in the amounts that they use and that they pay for this use; and that the protection of the Great Lakes and St Lawrence ecosystem becomes a national priority. What policies will you put in place? How will you ensure the resources are there to adequately protect this priceless resource?



**Energy:** Most Canadians know that we need to reduce our energy consumption. We know that our footprint on this planet is too great. If you are elected will you and your party support the introduction of incentives to those Canadians who reduce their energy consumption, and therefore, the size of their footprint? Will you provide the necessary leadership for Canada to regain its reputation as a responsible world player?



**Innovation:** Science and research must be recognized as an integral part of innovation. This is particularly true with new technologies: for example, biotechnologies - the transfer of genes from one species to another that does not occur in nature. These technologies are evolving fast. There may be benefits but there may also be risks. There will be winners and losers within the Canadian population. Canada is promoting these technologies as part of the innovation agenda. Canada has stated that it wishes to be a responsible leader in these technologies - particularly biotechnologies - worldwide. If you and your party are elected will you commit to initiating a societal debate in Canada around these technologies, so that Canadians can have a real say on which of these technologies are acceptable to Canadians and on how their tax dollars are spent?

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## CIELAP's Knowledge Clusters – First Meeting

On **December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005** from 5:30 – 7:00 at the CIELAP office (see address below), CIELAP is holding its first Knowledge Cluster meeting. **Jenny Greenop**, a former CIELAP intern, will tell us about the Knowledge Clusters and what they're trying to achieve. **Keri Baxter**, also a former intern, will present her research on **Chemical Liability Regimes**. This is only the first of our KC meetings. On Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the same time and place, **Susan Holtz**, CIELAP Senior Policy Analyst, will summarize her work on **Pharmaceuticals in Water: There is no Away** and discuss possibilities for future research in the area. KC meetings, held on a monthly basis, will each be held on a different topic of CIELAP's research.

KC meetings are not just to inform you about our research. They will **bring together and involve** people who are interested in a specific area of CIELAP's work. When you come to a KC meeting you'll not only hear about an issue but you'll also be invited to **give your input, discuss** how CIELAP can address this issue, and you can choose to **offer your help and expertise**.

You might be asking **what exactly are Knowledge Clusters and what do they mean for me?** CIELAP's Knowledge Clusters are groups of people, similar to advisory groups, who have a specific interest and expertise in one of 5 subject areas related to CIELAP's work (see below). Those who make up the KCs may be called upon to assist CIELAP's research at any stage of a project, including **brainstorming** ideas for new research and funding sources, **reviewing** or **helping with research** for a report or funding proposal, **referring** us to your contacts or other information sources, or taking part in any other stage of the research process. The **monthly meetings** will give KCs opportunities to meet and discuss future directions for addressing pressing environmental issues.

The five Knowledge Clusters that exist are in the areas of:

- 1) Regional Quality of Environmental Impacts and Initiatives (Atmospheric issues, Ground and Surface Water issues in the Great Lakes Basin, and Biodiversity issues)
- 2) Resource and Waste Management Policies and Practices (Industrial & Hazardous Waste Management and Movement, Municipal Solid Waste Policies, and Energy and Policy issues)
- 3) New Technologies and Emerging Issues (Biotechnology and GMOs, Nanotechnology, Endocrine Disruptors, and Organic Agriculture & Antibiotic Resistance)
- 4) Tools and Institutions for Sustainability (Environmental Law and Regulation, Measuring Sustainability Progress, and Sustainability Partnerships)
- 5) Civil Society Engagement (Youth Leadership & Involvement, Citizen Guides, Dialogues & Informal Seminars)

Please contact us at [cielap@cielap.org](mailto:cielap@cielap.org) if you want to join a Knowledge Cluster. You don't need to be in Toronto or come to meetings, to be a part of a Knowledge Cluster!

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## CIELAP's Partnering for Sustainability Conference



On **October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** at the **King Edward Hotel** CIELAP held its **3<sup>rd</sup> Partnering for Sustainability Conference**. This conference brought together delegates from business & industry, government and non-profits to discuss sustainability partnerships. Participants expressed their enthusiasm about the positive stories they heard as well as how they could apply these examples to their own partnership pursuits.

Conference proceedings and Keynote speeches can be found on our website at <http://www.cielap.org/p4sProceedings.html>.

## CIELAP's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, also at the King Edward Hotel, CIELAP held its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception. Glen Murray, chair of the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, was our guest speaker, and we presented our 3rd **Award for Advancing the Environmental Agenda** to the National Pollutant Release Inventory Working Group. Visit <http://www.cielap.org/AdvancingAward.html> to find out more about our award winners.

Please note that you can find our 2004-2005 annual report online at:

<http://www.cielap.org/annuals.html>.



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For questions, comments and more information about the content of this newsletter, please contact Carolyn Webb at [cielap@cielap.org](mailto: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](mailto:cielap@cielap.org) with "unsubscribe" in the subject.

**We wish all of you a happy holiday season!!**