



Fall/Winter 2004 Newsletter

CIELAP's Holiday Fundraising Drive

Dear Friends,

Please consider donating to CIELAP. Your continued support helps us produce the vibrant and relevant research that has become CIELAP's trademark. A donation before December 31 will provide you with a tax receipt for 2004.

If you would like to donate to CIELAP, please contact us at (416) 923-3529 ext. 26, or write to us at: 130 Spadina Ave., Suite 305, Toronto, ON M5V 2L4. You can also make a donation through CIELAP's website www.cielap.org - just look for the *Canada Helps* button.

Introducing: CIELAP's Editorial Page

Starting with this issue of CIELAP's Newsletter, we are introducing a new segment – an **Editorial Page**. In this issue, read Lawson Hunter's discussion on Conservation vs. Energy Efficiency. If you would like to contribute to the environmental policy dialogue with your own editorial, contact Iana Nikolova at (416) 923-3529 ext. 26 or interns@cielap.org.

What's New?

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Water

Great Lakes Champions on Parliament Hill

Early in November, CIELAP, together with Great Lakes United and the Canadian Environmental Law Association, held a meeting on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to identify political champions for Great Lakes environmental issues.

Over 35 Members of Parliament and their staff from all political parties attended the reception. Guests included Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries, Tony Ianno, Minister of State (families and caregivers), Jerry Grafstein, Senator, and Herb Gray, Commissioner of the International Joint Commission.

Public Participation in Water Management in the Great Lakes:

A new paper by CIELAP's Researcher Jolanta Rasteniene – *Public Participation in Water Management in the Great Lakes* – looks at how different Canadian jurisdictions involved in Great Lakes water management are practicing public participation. The paper points out that the public

involvement process is often poorly prepared and is exercised without sufficient resources. The publication includes case studies and provides examples of successful public participation in water management from Canada, the US and the UK.

The report is available for download on CIELAP's website – www.cielap.org. Look for it in under Sustainable Policy Solutions – Air and Water Quality

Managing Sources of Municipal Wastewater

In a new report, *Spotlight on Sustainability: Managing Sources of Municipal Wastewater*, CIELAP calls for a national minimum standard to be applied to all Canadian jurisdictions to limit, restrict and forbid certain pollutants from being discharged into municipal sewers. Although drinking water safety standards in Ontario have improved significantly, nation-wide, insufficient sewage management regulations still prevent the truly effective protection of Canadian water supplies.

The report is available for download on CIELAP's website– www.cielap.org. Look for it in under Sustainable Policy Solutions – Air and Water Quality

The Blue Group meeting in Madison, Wisconsin

In November, CIELAP's ED, Anne Mitchell, participated in meetings with The Blue Group in Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting brought together environmental groups concerned with Great Lakes issues on both sides of the border. Over two days, the groups exchanged ideas and experiences, and discussed campaign and partnership opportunities for engaging Great Lakes stakeholders.

4th International Conference on Pharmaceuticals and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Water – Minneapolis, Minnesota

In October, Senior Researcher Susan Holtz attended a major international scientific conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the National Ground Water Association, on pharmaceuticals and other hormone disrupting chemicals in water. Many of the scientists doing work on this emerging issue presented their most recent findings. Susan is doing research for a CIELAP report on the topic.

Biotechnology

GMO Statutory Liability

CIELAP is ready to release its review of Genetically Modified Organisms Statutory Liability. The report, written by the Osgoode Law student Michael Migus, reviews international liability regimes on genetically modified organisms and makes recommendations for Canada. The report will be available shortly on CIELAP's website www.cielap.org.

Biodiversity Strategy

Currently, CIELAP is participating in the Ministry of Natural Resources' Biodiversity Strategy multi-stakeholder workshops. CIELAP elected to contribute to the Genetic Resources Protection team after identifying the need for an NGO representation on the team. In 1999, CIELAP addressed this environmental issue with a paper on protecting, conserving and restoring biodiversity in Ontario.

Genetically Engineered Living Organisms

Senior Researcher Susan Holtz represented CIELAP in multi-stakeholder discussions on reviewing new regulations concerning genetically engineered living organisms under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999.

Pollution Prevention

CIELAP, together with the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention, is updating our *Citizens' Guide to Pollution Prevention*. The new edition features updated case studies and information. Also new to this edition is a glossary of P2 terms and a resources section for further information on P2.

The *Citizens' Guide to Pollution Prevention* is due out in March 2005.

Sustainability

In November, CIELAP's ED, Anne Mitchell, participated in the Sector Roundtables on Sustainability led by the Deputy Minister of the Environment, Sammy Watson. CIELAP suggested increasing the significance of the sector-based roundtables by including place-based roundtables, such as a Great Lakes Sustainability Roundtable.

Energy

Early in November, CIELAP Researcher Jolanta Rasteniene participated in the National Energy Board strategy development meeting in Calgary, Alberta.

Public Participation in Mining

Free copies of CIELAP's publication *Improving Citizen Participation in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process for Mining*, for which we collaborated with five environmental organizations in North and South America, are still available at CIELAP's office: 130 Spadina Ave, Suite 305, Toronto.

South Africa Exploratory Meeting

In October, CIELAP began an exploratory partnership with the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA). Funded by IDRC, the partnership aims to establish an environmental legal aid program in South Africa. The partnership commenced with a visit by Andy Gubb from WESSA's Western Cape Region office. The next step in this exploratory partnership is a visit by CIELAP's Executive Director, Anne Mitchell, to South Africa in early 2005.

In Print: CIELAP researchers' contributions

CIELAP Senior Researcher, Susan Holtz, contributed an article to the special Water Issue of *Corporate Knights Magazine*. Another article by Susan appears in the September/October edition of *Alternatives Journal*.

CIELAP's 34th AGM and Reception:

On October 28, 2004, CIELAP celebrated its 34th Anniversary. The evening took place at the York Events Theatre in Toronto. Attended by over 150 guests, the evening began with CIELAP's 34th Annual General Meeting, which reviewed the organization's achievements over the past year.

The evening continued with a cocktail reception. During the reception, CIELAP presented its second annual **Awards for Advancing the Environmental Agenda** to David Schindler, Zenon Environmental Inc., and The Waterkeepers. CIELAP recognized David Schindler for his lifetime achievement in raising awareness about Great Lakes issues. Zenon was recognized for its commitment to developing sustainable technologies for water treatment, and The Waterkeepers were recognized for the organization's concept of protecting water bodies.

The Editorial Page

Conservation vs. Energy Efficiency

Conservation (n) the act of keeping or protecting from loss or injury. 2. the preservation of natural resources.

Efficiency (n) the ratio of work done or energy expended to the energy supplied in the form of food or fuel.

When someone speaks of preserving the planet or being eco-friendly do they mean conserving or being energy efficient? Both result in fewer power plants and fewer pollutants in the air but they differ significantly in achieving those goals.

We may recycle our newspapers and compost our coffee grinds but are these enough to reduce our 'ecological footprint'? Caulking our windows and adding extra insulation is smart and saves money but does it keep the hole in the ozone from getting any bigger? And it's frustrating, to say the least, when we walk to the store past the idling SUVs and the empty office towers with all lights on.

If you read Linda McQuaig's "It's the Crude, Dude" or Amory Lovins' "Winning the Oil Endgame" or just the daily headlines, you discover that energy makes the world go round (sorry it isn't love). Quick – can you tell me the current price of gasoline? How about the amount of electricity used in your household on a monthly basis?

The amount of oil we import, how wisely we use it, and what happens to the waste by-products after we've squeezed the energy out of the molecules tells us a lot

about how energy efficient we are but it doesn't address the conservation of this finite resource (how to avoid using so much).

Because we're so smart, meaning technologically advanced, we – as a society – refuse to walk or cycle to work, instead we ask for a better exhaust system on our automobile or bus (as Edmonton Transit recently did). And who can argue with the genius of the person trying to market 'disposable' cell phones?

Perhaps the 'eureka' factor will not be another bit of technology but rather the mindset that we as a species have to stop pooping in our own nest.

While I consider the pros and cons of converting my car to biodiesel or ethanol, or buying a hybrid vehicle I know my bike is waiting in the garage. And herein lies the rub with energy efficiency. My next washer, dryer, and refrigerator will all be more 'energy efficient' but to save the landfill site I need to wait until they no longer work anymore. Heck, with the artificially subsidized electricity rates sky-rocketing to 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour, those new appliances should pay for themselves in no time. lol

Maybe, one day, governments and corporations, and 'we' will get it and realize that to preserve the environment one needs to work and live the way nature does – use only what one needs, waste as little as possible, and return the rest to where it came from. This is what I call conservation. It has to be an improvement on 'efficiency',

which is using as much as you can with as little impact as possible.

And, if it's 'better to light one candle than to curse the dark', perhaps rather than curse the energy-hog neighbour or blame slow government action or denounce environmental misdeeds of corporations we should just listen to what my grandma told us – turn off the lights when no one is in the room.

Maybe it's too simple for us who are hooked on technology. Maybe, but at least we have to try and keep trying.

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If you would like to contribute an article to CIELAP's Editorial Page, contact Lana Nikolova at (416) 923-3529 ext. 26 or interns@cielap.org