



January/February/March 2005 Newsletter

Donate to CIELAP

Dear Friends,

CIELAP is not a core funded organization. We rely on the support of our friends to continue producing quality reports and recommendations on urgent environmental issues. We focus on policy because we believe it is one of the most powerful ways to accomplish long-term change.

If you would like to donate to CIELAP, please contact us at (416) 923-3529 ext. 26, or write to us at: 130 Spadina Avenue, 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.

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Did you know, you don't have to wait for our newsletter to learn about CIELAP's new publications? 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/whatsnew.shtml>.

Water

Concerned about the quality of your drinking water?

Find out what your municipality is doing to prevent water contamination in our recent report – *Spotlight on Sustainability: Managing Sources of Municipal Wastewater*. You might be surprised by the insufficient sewage management regulations still prevalent nationwide, which prevent the truly effective protection of Canadian water supplies. The report also makes recommendations on how to use policy to prevent waste and toxics from getting into drinking water.

Download for free copy at <http://www.cielap.org/airandwater.html>

How is the public involved in protecting the Great Lakes?

In another recent publication, *Public Participation in Water Management in the Great Lakes*, we look at public engagement in the management of the Great Lakes. The management of the Great Lakes, a wonderful public good, is suffering from limited public participation. The paper makes recommendations on ways to involve the public to achieve proper water management.

Download for free copy at <http://www.cielap.org/airandwater.html>

Biotechnology

Addressing Canadians' concerns about the long-term risks of GMOs

A survey by Health Canada reveals that roughly 90% of Canadians are concerned about the long-term risks of GMOs. Several nations have recognized the uniqueness of GMOs and the potential inability of traditional civil liability regimes to deal with this unique technology. In a new report, *GMO Statutory Liability Regimes: An International Review*, CIELAP presents eight recommendations that would allow Canadian policy to meet the new and complex legal challenges related to GMOs.

The report is available for free at <http://www.cielap.org/foodandbiotech.html>

Pollution Prevention

Harnessing our power to eliminate pollution

CIELAP has just released an updated edition of our popular *Citizens' Guide to Pollution Prevention*. Inside the guide you can learn about what industry and governments are doing to reduce and eliminate pollution, not just transfer pollutants to a different location or a different medium. The guide also offers ways for you and your community to contribute to pollution prevention. Includes resources for further information.

You can download this report for free on our website www.cielap.org.

Free hard copies of the report are available for pick up from our office (see address at the end of the Newsletter). You can also order hard copies (\$10 plus shipping and handling) by e-mailing projects@cielap.org or calling (416) 923-3529 ext. 26.

Available also in French.

Sustainability

CIELAP's Sustainability Tour of Ottawa

From January 18 to 20, we visited with various Federal Government departments in Ottawa to present CIELAP's new analysis of the state of the Sustainability debate in Canada since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Over the three days, CIELAP's delegation, consisting of Executive Director, Anne Mitchell, and Senior Policy Researcher, Susan Holtz, met with 14 Government departments. The report created a lot of enthusiasm among various government representatives who were eager to contribute comments and recommendations to the report.

A new look at Sustainability in Canada

Sustainable Development in Canada: 2005 Update looks at the progress made in Canada towards sustainable development. The report addresses why sustainability is important for Canada, what sustainability means in practical terms and how Canada can approach sustainability more quickly and effectively. To improve Canada's approach to sustainability, CIELAP recommends stronger leadership and has identified a set of sustainability priorities.

You can download this 2005 update on sustainable development in Canada for free on our website www.cielap.org.

Free hard copies of the report are available for pick up from our office (see address at the end of the Newsletter). You can also order hard copies (\$20 plus shipping and handling) by e-mailing projects@cielap.org or calling (416) 923-3529 ext. 26.

A 4-page brochure highlighting achievements and recommendations is also available to order.

Available also in French.

How Partnerships Can Help Your Organization Make the Transition to Sustainability

Kyoto is here to stay and we all have to start living more sustainably. Many sectors and organizations face the challenge of making the transition to a sustainable way of doing business. Partnerships offer a flexible way to address some of these challenges. CIELAP has published a series of papers on *Partnerships for Sustainability*. These publications present a framework for formation of partnerships, checklists for evaluation of new and existing partnerships, and review existing policy for partnership formation in Canada.

Download these publications from www.cielap.org

Hazardous Waste

Helping children learn about the toxics they might be drinking and breathing

CIELAP has just published a *Teacher's Guide to the National Pollutant Release Inventory* (NPRI). The guide includes activities that let school children use NPRI data to visualize what chemicals are being released into the air and water of their communities. The guide, however, is not just for children. It is for all of us who are concerned about the pollutants released into our community's air and water, and what these pollutants can do to our health. The guide is a simple manual that helps you navigate through the NPRI and PollutionWatch web sites to get the pollutant release data you need, interpret the results and take action.

Download a copy of the Guide at <http://www.cielap.org/citizensguides.html>.

Setting up the first Environmental Legal Aid Centre in South Africa

From January 27 to February 12, CIELAP's Executive Director Anne Mitchell was in South Africa contributing advice and expertise in setting up the first environmental legal aid centre in South Africa. This is not the first time Anne has helped bring about change in South Africa. Prior to her work with CIELAP, Anne was involved in abolishing the Apartheid regime in South Africa.

Read Anne's account of her trip:

EXPLORATORY PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA

Anne Mitchell, CIELAP's Executive Director and Susan Waters, environmental lawyer with the Federal Department of Justice have just returned from South Africa. This exploratory project, funded by the International Development Research Centre, has enabled CIELAP to examine the possibilities for establishing an environmental legal aid centre in South Africa. This initiative proposes to **strengthen the capacity of civil society to engage in high quality and effective environmental law and policy in South Africa.**

In 10 days, Anne and Susan **attended over 21 meetings with over 40 different organizations and met with over 100 people** – national, provincial and municipal government officials and bureaucrats; academics from three different universities; representatives of over 25 civil society organizations and community groups; and environmental lawyers. On each occasion, Anne and Susan presented the idea of an environmental law centre and sought the views and opinions of the meeting participants. Discussions were frank and enthusiastic. Participants exchanged ideas on how this

environmental law entity should function and discussed its focus. The meetings were rich in content, strategic thinking and vision.

The various people Anne and Susan met with overwhelmingly agreed that **such a centre could fill a gap that currently exists in South Africa and southern Africa**. Meetings participants cautioned, however, that the centre needs to be suitable for South Africa and should not duplicate the work of existing South African groups. **Such an environmental legal aid centre in South**

Africa could be a pilot for similar initiatives in other southern African countries.

Anne and Susan, along with partner, Andy Gubb of the Western Cape Wilderness Society, will now be preparing a report for the groups they met with in South Africa and for the funder. They will also be developing a proposal to launch the next phase of this exciting project.

Upcoming Projects

In the coming months, look for our report on pharmaceuticals in water, and maps on hazardous waste flows in Ontario.

Volunteers Corner

CIELAP's work cannot be accomplished without the help of our many volunteers. We would like to introduce you to some of them.

Olivia Exchaquet

Olivia is a law student from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. While at CIELAP she will research legislative initiatives on pharmaceuticals in Europe. This research would help us learn what other countries are doing to address the hazards of water contamination by pharmaceuticals.

Lawson Hunter

Lawson Hunter is a freelance writer and public relations consultant with his own communications company based in Burlington, Ontario. Lawson has produced and/or directed over 300 television and radio programs, written over 200 articles for business, arts and environmental publications, and currently publishes an electronic newsletter dedicated to renewable energy technologies. A former Press Secretary for an Ontario cabinet minister, Lawson has taught public relations at Sheridan College (Oakville) and Mohawk College (Hamilton) and enjoys the challenge of raising the profile of companies and non-profit organizations that he is involved with.

Jonathan Mee

Jonathan is a recent MSc graduate from the Zoology Department of the University of Toronto. He is updating our database and helping us with fundraising activities.

David Newel

Since he began volunteering with CIELAP in June 2004, David Newel helped organize our 34th Anniversary Awards Dinner & Annual General Meeting (October 2004), and edited the *CIELAP Annual Report 2003-2004*. His subsequent editorial work includes: *GMO Statutory Liability Regimes: An International Review*; *Spotlight on Sustainability: Managing Sources of Municipal Wastewater*; *Teachers' Guide to the National Pollutant Release Inventory*; *2004 Update on Sustainable Development in Canada*; and, *Policy for Partnership*. He is currently co-authoring, with Susan Holtz (Senior Policy Advisor), *The CIELAP Style Guide*.

Vimla Panday (Associate Researcher with CIELAP)

Vimla is helping CIELAP review the draft Ontario Biodiversity Strategy and other biodiversity related issues. Before joining CIELAP, Vimla worked with the Environmental Protection Agency of Guyana, which is responsible for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Hydrometeorological Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Vimla has a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Studies and a Post-graduate Diploma in Teaching Methodologies from the University of Guyana, and pursued a Master of Science with a focus on Climate Change at the University of the West Indies. Her professional background is in natural resources management.

Lyndsay Vidito

Lyndsay is a graduate student in the Environmental Studies program at York University. At CIELAP, she is helping us research emerging water and Great Lakes issues, and has recently started doing research on green industries in Ontario, particularly industries related to the restoration of the Great Lakes.