



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

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

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Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

July – October 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

Upcoming Events

[Food and Song – A Fundraising Event at the Free Times Café](#)

Join CIELAP at the **Free Times Café** (320 College St., Toronto) on **Monday, December 11** from 5 – 7 pm for an evening of conversation, drinks, snacks, and a performance by **singer/songwriter Evalyn Parry**. Contact Carolyn at cielap@cielap.org or 416.923.3529 ext. 26 to purchase a \$25 ticket. Please order your tickets by Thursday December 7th. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Recent CIELAP Publications

[A Survey of National Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development Laws and Policies: Lessons for Canada](#)

This research paper is an international survey of the best practices in environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD) policy.

This research provides an overview of some of the major policies and action plans currently being enacted at the national and international level. There are a number of well developed laws and policies, notably: the National Environmental Education Act of 1990 in the United States, Australia's national action plan *Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future*, the UK's *Sustainable Development Action Plan for Education and Skills, inter alia*. These laws and policies provide strong commitments and models for other governments, though more research is needed to show the relative effectiveness of the laws and policies.

This 34-page publication, written by CIELAP's Research Associate Matt Binstock, can be [downloaded](#) for free from our website.

Past CIELAP Events

[Innovative Technologies Panel Presentation](#)

On Thursday November 16th CIELAP celebrated its 36th anniversary with a panel presentation entitled **Working Together for Environmentally Sustainable Innovative Technologies**. This discussion considered a range of questions relating to the environmental sustainability of innovative technologies, such as:

- How best can diverse stakeholders cooperate to achieve a policy context for the development and use of innovative technologies that ensures environment protection?
- How can the public be educated about the implications of these technologies and engaged in deeper analysis and a meaningful debate?

CIELAP's panelists brought a variety of perspectives and insights to these questions. Our panelists were: Martha Hall Findlay, Liberal Leadership candidate; Ellie Perkins, Environmental Studies professor at York University; and Tracy McCowen, a bioethicist who specializes in genetic technologies. Summary notes from this session will soon be posted on our website.

Past Knowledge Cluster Meetings

Biotechnologies

On October 26 2006 CIELAP held a Knowledge Cluster entitled **Biotechnology – What do Canadians Expect of their Governments?** If you are interested in this topic please access our [summary notes](#) from the meeting.

Urban Water Management

CIELAP's September 2006 Knowledge Cluster focused on **Urban Water Management** in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Please access our [summary notes](#) from this meeting to learn more.

We will take a break from our Knowledge Cluster Meetings for December. They will resume in January.

CIELAP Speaks Out

The Fall 2006 issue of the *Great Lakes News* featured an article by CIELAP Policy Analyst Susan Holtz entitled “**A Flushing Revelation**” on the emerging issue of **pharmaceutical and personal care product pollution** in our waterways. Download this article from our [website](#).

In September, CIELAP's Executive Director Anne Mitchell published an **open letter** to the Team Leader of the Ministry of Environment's Waste Management Policy Branch, Adam Ciulini, urging the government of Ontario to develop a **comprehensive waste management program** to address this growing concern. Download this [letter](#) from our website.

Also in September, CIELAP published its Comments on **the Review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999)**, focusing on biotechnology, nanotechnology, public participation, pollution prevention, toxic substances and implementing the precautionary principle. This document included proposals and comments for the Conservative government on future action and potential leadership. Download CIELAP's [comments](#) from our website.

In October 2006 Maureen Carter-Whitney spoke at the Ontario Environment Network's Fall conference about the issue of pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupting substances as emerging contaminants in water.

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

Law and Policy in Canada – Opportunities for you to Comment

The Ontario government would like to hear your comments on Draft regulations and guidance documents to support the implementation of environmental penalties, spill prevention and spill contingency planning and spill notification under the Environmental Enforcement Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005 (Bill 133). [Click here to offer your comments](#). Comments must be made by **January 12, 2007**.

Volunteer and Intern Corner

CIELAP has the pleasure of working with many excellent volunteers and interns. Those who have recently contributed to our work include:

Sarah May - a grade 11 student at the Ursula Franklin Academy who hopes to pursue a career in environmental law.

Tera Orchard – who is finishing a Paralegal Communications program with a volunteer work placement at CIELAP.

Emily Richardson – who recently completed her Bachelor of Commerce at McGill University and is planning to pursue a Master's of Environmental Studies in 2007.

Joanna Vince – a fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, majoring in biology and environmental science.

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

Contact Us

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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.