

January 2000

HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM!

From all of us at CIELAP: Anne Mitchell, Executive Director; Mark Winfield, Director of Research; Jack Gibbons, Senior Economic Advisor; Romila Verma, Project Officer and Kumarie Khadoo, Administrative Assistant. And welcome to our new website!

We are trying hard to keep the site up to date and to make sure information on our research projects and reports is readily available. We will update the "what's new at CIELAP" section weekly and the more substantive sections on a monthly basis. We would be interested in your views about our site and your suggestions to improve it.

BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL

We recognize that this is an important step and that countries compromised to achieve agreement on the world's first rules governing trade in genetically modified food. But much still needs to be done. There are still many issues to be resolved. Biotechnology raises environmental, health, ethical and moral considerations as well as scientific and economic ones. The Protocol does not resolve these issues but provides a framework to continue discussions and negotiations on what exactly biotechnology does bring to society. Check out CIELAP's publications and comments in this area. Check out as well, our international program. Here we are working with our partner in Costa Rica, Fundacion Ambio on the need for a regulatory framework as the biotechnology industry evolves.

POLLUTION

CIELAP is working with the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund on developing a website in Canada using the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) data collected by Environment Canada from the 1800 major polluters across Canada. This web site is being developed with the help of Environmental Defence in the US and will be similar to their site www.scorecard.org. Watch for the launch of the Canadian version of this site later this year.

CIELAP'S RESEARCH PROJECTS

CIELAP has a full plate of research projects for the next few months. Our research program is organized in four program theme areas: Pollution, Consumption and Waste; Biological Systems; Environmental Accountability; and Air Quality and Climate Change. Check out our web site for further details.

AIR POLLUTION

CIELAP's work in this area is through the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA) which was launched in August 1997 to see how we could encourage the electricity industry to reduce air pollution. We were disappointed in Mr Clement's recent announcements on air pollution. His proposals will not improve air quality in Ontario. Check out the OCAA website at www.cleanair.web.net to see our comments on this issue.

STAFFING

There have been some staff changes at CIELAP over the past few months. Greg Jenish and Jan Rabantek, Project Officers at the Institute left in August 1999. Greg is working with the LURA Group and Jan is continuing with the mid-career, LEAD program. We wish them both well in their pursuit of other opportunities and thank them for their years of commitment to CIELAP. Sarah Bjorkquist, Project Officer working on our air pollution and biotechnology work left in December. Sarah began work with the Institute as an intern in 1997. She then worked part-time and finally in 1998 we were able to offer her a full time position. Sarah is now a Policy Analyst in the Environment Minister, David Anderson's, office.

In November 1999, Romila Verma, joined CIELAP as a Project Officer, working on our NPRI website project. Romila has a PhD in Geography from India and an MES from the University of Toronto. We welcome Romila to the CIELAP team.

We hope to introduce a new staff member next month. We are in the process of hiring for a Project Officer to work on our environmental accountability program, particularly, to prepare our fifth year report on Ontario's Environment and the Common Sense Revolution, which will be published this summer.

VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking volunteers in a number of areas: research; administration; marketing; fundraising and special events. Check out the volunteer section on our website to find out about volunteering for CIELAP.

SPECIAL EVENTS

This year is CIELAP's 30th anniversary. We are planning two events to celebrate and have fun. The first is a sail on Lake Ontario on the three masted schooner, The Challenge. The date for this is Thursday, June 15 2000. Mark your calendars. Plan to join us. This is the third annual sail for CIELAP. Details will on this site soon.

Then on October 26 2000 we are planning a 30th anniversary event at the Arts and Letters Club in downtown Toronto. Again, mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

FUNDRAISING

CIELAP is known in Canada and internationally for its research in the public interest on environmental law and policy issues. We are an independent Institute. We do not receive core funding from any government agency. We are privileged to include many, many individuals, some corporations, foundations and governments as our sources of financial support. If you would like to know how to financially support CIELAP, please contact the Institute's Executive Director, Anne Mitchell, at anne@cielap.org.