



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

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DROIT ET DE LA POLITIQUE  
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## What's New?

## *Summer 2002 Newsletter*

### ***CIELAP has moved!***

As you are probably aware, we have moved offices and are now safely at 130 Spadina Ave, Suite 305 in Toronto. We will be having an open house on Thursday, July 18th from 4-6pm. Digging through over 30 years of research and files in the dusty basement of our old office, we found some really interesting nuggets. They include:

- Copies of the "Environmental News", a joint monthly newsletter released by the Canadian Environmental Law and Research Foundation (CELRF) and the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) from 1972-1974.
- The proceedings from the first round of public comments on drafting the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) in Canada.
- Reports and research from over 4 decades engaging the public on environmental law, written by some of today's leaders in the environmental movement.

We have also just concluded a comprehensive archive listing of all of our reports and publications and helped to contribute some items to the University of Toronto and York Centre for Applied Sustainability public archives. Plans to develop a comprehensive history of the organization are afoot. If you'd like more information on this project, please contact Anne at [anne@cielap.org](mailto:anne@cielap.org).

### ***Green Power Trade Show Coming Soon***

Come see the future of energy at the 3rd Annual Green Power Trade Show! This year's show, open free to the public, will be held on October 28-29th, 2002 at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto. As always, the show will be held in conjunction with the Independent Power Producer's Society of Ontario (IPPSO). There will be a number of workshops on developing green power markets, finding investment for green power development and consumer information.

For complete show details please check out [www.cielap.org/greenpower](http://www.cielap.org/greenpower).

### ***Continuing our International PRTR Work***

At the beginning of July, CIELAP was invited to Mexico City to participate in a multisectoral workshop regarding the implementation of the newly legislated Pollutant Release and

Transfer Registry (PRTR) in Mexico. Corey Diamond travelled down to give two short presentations — the first, a general overview of the National Pollutant Release Inventory (Canada's registry) and second, a description of the issues surrounding confidentiality and public access to PRTRs.

CIELAP's comments were well received by Mexican NGOs, government officials and industry leaders. As the country struggles through political change, there are some major hurdles it must overcome to increase government and industry accountability and transparency. It took eight long years of hard work by Mexican NGOs to force the government to institute a PRTR, which will give Mexicans access to a public database of pollution releases and transfers. Now that it is legislated, the implementation must begin. This involves asking key questions such as: which industries must report to the registry? which substances must they report? how will reporting be monitored? how does the government alleviate any industry fears associated with compliance? how does public access work?

This was a special opportunity to share our experiences with our Mexican partners. We look forward to continue learning from each other in the future.

### ***Planning for WSSD***

Anne Mitchell, CIELAP's Executive Director, will be attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 24 to September 6, thanks to the support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She will be accredited to the Summit representing several organizations including CIELAP and the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN). The world will be reviewing progress towards sustainable development since Agenda 21 was proposed at the Earth Summit in 1992. As we know, we have not progressed far — in fact, in some areas we have slipped. The ENGO community in Canada has prepared a shadow paper on the government's actions toward sustainable development since 1992. This can be viewed on the CEN's website at <http://www.cen-rce.org/wssd>.

Anne plans to be in regular contact with the office while she is in South Africa and will send regular updates back to us. We would be pleased to forward these updates to those on our listserv.

Upon her return, Anne will be discussing the next steps with the CIELAP board and staff. CIELAP will host a workshop on the outcomes of the WSSD some time this fall, perhaps around the same time as our annual general meeting in November.

### ***Anne Re-appointed to CBAC***

Anne Mitchell has been reappointed to the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee (CBAC). This Committee was established by the Federal Government to advise them on issues related to biotechnology and includes members of the biotech industry and the academic world. CBAC has published one report on patenting, leading Anne to register her dissent to some of the recommendations in this report. A second report on agricultural

products will be published later this summer. Again, Anne has registered her dissent with some of the recommendations in the report.

Membership in CBAC is controversial. Many ENGOs consider the process flawed and argue that the government has already decided that it is going to promote this technology at all costs, even if CBAC were to recommend otherwise. It certainly appears that the Canadian government is promoting this technology without due caution. We do not know what the long term implications will be on human health or the environment. Those of you who share these concerns should write to Allan Rock, Minister of Industry and tell him your concerns.

As well, if biotechnology is something you are concerned about, especially in terms of the health and environment of future generations, please contact us. We would love to hear from you and see how we can get you involved in our work.

### ***CIELAP Intervenes in Onco-Mouse Case***

CIELAP was one of the interveners before the Supreme Court of Canada in May on the issue of patenting higher life forms (i.e. plants and animals). The issue is whether or not a genetically-altered mouse (Harvard Onco Mouse) can be patented. The Supreme Court will make a decision on this case some time this fall. The Canadian Environmental Law Association (representing CIELAP and other ENGOs) and the lawyers representing the Canadian Council of Churches argued before the Supreme Court that it was never envisaged in 1869, when the Patent Act was passed, that the Act would be interpreted to include whole plants and animals. Both lawyers argued that this decision needs to be made by Parliament and not the Courts. As well, there needs to be a fully informed debate with Canadian society. The implications of this patent application, and the others waiting in the wings for this decision, will fundamentally change who we are as a society, and will further remove future research in this area from the public arena to the private sector. We'll keep you posted on the Court's decision.

## **New Releases**

### ***Citizen's Guide to Biotechnology***

In May, CIELAP released an updated version of the "Citizen's Guide to Biotechnology". This important publication is aimed at helping citizens have a real say in the development of biotechnology in Canada. It includes information on the current trends in the application of biotechnology, the concerns many people have of its side effects and an overview of the type of regulatory framework Canada needs in order to control these side effects.

At the recent BioJustice conference held in Toronto (an annual event which aimed to counter the industry-led Bio-2002 conference), copies of the Citizen's Guide were sold out in one afternoon. We have more copies available, and they can be ordered for \$10 online through our website at [www.cielap.org](http://www.cielap.org) or by calling Anicia Bonilla, at 416-923-3529 x28.

## ***CIELAP's Response to Walkerton II***

At the end of May, Honourable Justice Dennis O'Connor released the final Walkerton Report, containing over 90 recommendations. CIELAP responded to "Walkerton II" by examining the main recommendations and challenging the Ontario government to implement them. For complete comments and recommendations, you can download our report entitled ***Walkerton Inquiry Final Report: A Summary And A Response*** at [www.cielap.org/walkerton2](http://www.cielap.org/walkerton2).

To view our comments on "Walkerton I", please visit [www.cielap.org/walkerton](http://www.cielap.org/walkerton).

## ***Partnering for Sustainability Proceedings Now On-Line***

In April, 2002, CIELAP held a conference entitled "Partnering for Sustainability", in conjunction with the Strategy Institute. Proceedings from this conference — including summaries of each speaker's presentation, as well as links to power point presentations — can be found at <http://www.cielap.org/partnering>.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Corey at [corey@cielap.org](mailto:corey@cielap.org).

## **Honouring our Volunteers**

On June 27th, CIELAP set sail on Lake Ontario for its 4th Annual Summer Sail fundraising event. The crew of *the Challenge* took us around Toronto Island, past the Molson Amphitheatre and out into the middle of the lake, at which point the sails were hoisted and we glided into the night. It was a great turnout this year and more importantly, it was an opportunity for us to thank our dedicated volunteers for their hard work over the past year. Thanks to everyone who attended!

CIELAP would like to thank our sponsors for this year's event: Bank of Montreal, Willms and Shier and PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

## **CIELAP Needs You in 2002!**

***As a non-profit organization, our work depends on the funds we raise through our individual, corporate, foundation and governmental supporters. Every dollar you give to CIELAP goes directly to advancing the environmental agenda in Canada and helps us to continue the vital work we've been doing for more than 30 years.***

If you'd like to make a donation to CIELAP, please call Anicia Bonilla at (416) 923-3529 x28 or send a cheque or credit card number to:

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***Thank you!!***