



January 2006 newsletter

Election Statement from Anne Mitchell, Executive Director of CIELAP

January 10 2006

Canadians go to the polls in less than two weeks. We need to elect leaders who have a vision of what a sustainable Canada could look like. We need to elect leaders who will govern on behalf of all Canadians. We need leaders who can integrate economic, environmental and social goals into sustainable policies that will benefit all Canadians and restore our reputation in our own country and around the world as a caring, compassionate nation.

Not only do we need leaders with a vision of a sustainable Canada. We need leaders who will develop policies to help us move toward our vision. The Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP), recently published a report entitled *Sustainable Development in Canada: 2005 Update* in which we outlined five priorities where the federal government could start - if sustainability is our vision. These are:

- policies to encourage all Canadians from all sectors to meet the obligations of the Kyoto Agreement
- policies to address childhood poverty and deprivation, including early education and daycare
- policies to help cities address issues of public transit and environmental infrastructure
- policies to 'green' Canadian innovation and competitiveness
- policies to address homelessness in Canada.

Why not ask your candidate what he or she proposes to do to address any one of the above priorities. It is only when we begin to understand what a sustainable society could be and commit to moving towards that vision that we will be able to address issues such as gun violence and terrorism.

CIELAP's questions for the candidates focus on sustainability, water, energy and innovation and are on our website at www.cielap.org/what's new.

Canadians deserve politicians with such a vision.

Anne Mitchell, Executive Director, CIELAP, 416-923-3529 ext 25

CIELAP Workshop: Innovative Technologies – A Way Forward

CIELAP's workshop on Innovative Technologies will be held **March 10 2006** from **6:00 - 10:00 pm** and **March 11 2006** from **8:30 am - 4:00 pm**. **Ursula Franklin** will be our Keynote speaker on the Saturday morning.

This workshop, hosted jointly with the Quaker Institute for the Future, has the **objectives of** bringing together interested stakeholders to:

- 1) Engage in a discussion on innovative technologies – current and future scenarios
- 2) Bring forward recommendations on (a) a process for the government to engage interested stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue over time; and (b) an accountable process to ensure that comments made by civil society and the general public will be considered and addressed by decision makers so that negative consequences of innovative technologies can be limited.

Please visit <http://cielap.org/InnTechWorkshop.html> regularly for more information as it is updated.

CIELAP's Knowledge Clusters – Upcoming Meetings

On **December 15th 2005**, CIELAP hosted its first Knowledge Cluster meeting. **Jenny Greenop**, a former CIELAP intern, discussed the knowledge clusters and **Keri Baxter**, also a former intern, presented her research on **Chemical Liability Regimes**. The discussions were very well received and set an excellent precedence for the following future meetings:

Pharmaceuticals in Water

Thursday January 26, 5:30 – 7:00, Susan Holtz, CIELAP Senior Policy Analyst

Susan will summarize her recent paper: Pharmaceuticals in Water: There is no Away and will engage participants in a discussion of this issue.

Engaging Canadians in the Biotechnology Debate

Thursday February 23, 5:30 – 7:00, Anne Mitchell, Executive Director, CIELAP

The rapid development of new biotechnologies has been widely debated; Canadians are polarized over the issue. Stated government policy is to position Canada as a responsible world leader in biotechnology. But how do we go about doing this? Anne will review some of CIELAP's work in this area and encourage participants to identify some of the key policy gaps and potential new research projects for CIELAP.

Gaps and Inconsistencies: Ontario's Greenbelt Act & Places to Grow Act

Thursday March 30, 5:30 – 7:00, Maureen Carter-Whitney, Research Director, CIELAP

CIELAP is looking to undertake an analysis of gaps and inconsistencies between Ontario's new Greenbelt Act and Places to Grow Act, as well as other planning legislation and policies including the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, the Planning Act and the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement. This analysis will include clarifying which plans and policies take precedence over others, and what this means for environmental protection. Participants will be asked for their input on this initiative.

Youth and Community Engagement

Thursday April 27, 5:30 – 7:00, Carolyn Webb, Communications Officer, CIELAP

CIELAP works to engage youth and members of our community in environmental law and policy. Carolyn Webb will highlight some of CIELAP's work in this area and participants will discuss how diverse members of our community can better understand environmental law and policy and participate in the environmental debate.

If you would like to attend one of these events or take part in the discussion of this issue, please RSVP Carolyn at cielap@cielap.org or 416-923-3529 ext.26. All meetings will be held at the CIELAP office - 130 Spadina Ave. Suite 305.

Find out more about our knowledge clusters by visiting our website at http://www.cielap.org/KC_about.html.

Emissions Trading

CIELAP has been working on an emissions trading paper. We are currently looking for someone, with an interest in this area, to volunteer their time to look over and incorporate some suggested changes in the document. If this is of interest to you please contact Carolyn Webb at cielap@cielap.org or 416-923-3529 ext. 26. We are also looking for people who have expertise in this area to review the paper before we make it available on our website.