

May 7, 2001 -- Toronto

*For immediate release*

## **The 2001 Budget and the Environment**

On May 2, 2001, the Ontario Minister of the Environment made fifteen commitments that the provincial government described as actions that would protect the environment.

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) welcomes this announcement, and hopes the Finance Minister will, in the May 9, 2001 Budget, demonstrate the government's real commitment by allocating specific amounts tied to the proposals.

A few background figures:

- In 1994/95, the operating budget for the Ministry of the Environment was: \$258,000,000
- In 1997/98, the operating budget for the Ministry of the Environment was: \$160,000,000
- In 2000/2001 the operating budget for the Ministry of the Environment was: \$158,000,000
- In 1994/95, the capital budget for the Ministry of the Environment was: \$271,000,000
- In 1997/98, the capital budget for the Ministry of the Environment was: \$98,000,000
- In 2000/2001, the capital budget for the Ministry of the Environment was: \$65,000,000
- In 1994 the total full-time staff allotment of the Ministry of the Environment was: 2,430
- In 1997/98 the total full-time allotment of the Ministry of the Environment was: 1,678
- In 2000 the total full-time staff allotment of the Ministry of the Environment was: 1,277

The following figures are CIELAP's estimates for the budget required to adequately deliver the fifteen programs or commitments to renew Ontario's environmental protection programs.

Proposal Budget	Estimate
#1 -- Cabinet Environment Policy Committee	\$100,000
#2 -- Associate Deputy Minister	\$400,000
#3 -- Amendments to strengthen and modernize Ontario's environmental protection laws	\$3.5 million
#4 -- Operation Clean Water - build on success	
• Infrastructure	\$240 million

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital upgrades - lab equipment</li> </ul>	\$12 million
#5 -- Implementation of a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary strategy to protect groundwater with local conservation authorities, municipalities and other partners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Authority Budgets (36 x \$500,000)</li> </ul>	\$18 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal Transfer payments (30 x \$500,000)</li> </ul>	\$15 million
#6 -- Enforce operation Clean Water with regular and frequent sampling, stringent treatment requirements, more transparency and public access to information (see #4).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspection and enforcement staff</li> </ul>	\$10 million
#7 -- High-tech monitoring vessels (3 x \$3,000,000)	\$9 million
#8 -- "Encourage border states to reduce their emissions" - costs of litigation	\$1.5 million
#9 -- Air emission reporting programme and mandatory monitoring and reporting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspection and enforcement staff</li> </ul>	\$10 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Database Development, Management</li> </ul>	\$7 million
#10 -- Expand Drive Clean	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximate program budget for Drive Clean</li> </ul>	\$2 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Estimated Revenues from Drive Clean)</li> </ul>	(\$60 Million )
#11 -- Comprehensive environmental monitoring and reporting strategy - as a component of an overall environmental knowledge management strategy. Developing a strategy	\$2 million
#12 -- Enhancing environmental SWAT team approach Upgrade and expand existing SWAT team	\$14 million

#13 -- Related Technical innovations include inspection and enforcement activities (see #4, #9 and #11) - Hire necessary senior scientific staff	\$5 million
#14 -- Legislative committee to investigate environmentally friendly sustainable fuel alternatives, report back in twelve months, including budget for consultation and research	\$1.6 million
#15 -- Gibbons recommendation re: knowledge management and emerging issues. (See numbers 4, 6, 11 and 13.) These initiatives should create the technical and scientific capacity to carry this out. What is also needed is an institutionalized process of identifying emerging issues and formulating policy responses.	\$5 million

These estimates suggest that unless the Government restores at least \$100 million in capital and operating expenses to the protection of Ontario's environment, they are just talking about protecting the environment, not doing anything about it.

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*The Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy has for been commenting on and monitoring policy and regulatory changes related to the environment for 30 years.*