



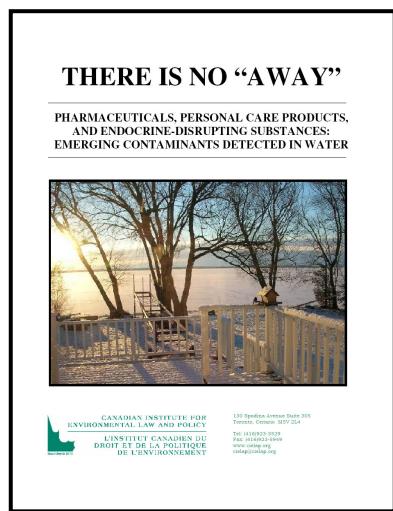
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## February/March 2006 newsletter

### Pharmaceuticals in Water

On March 6, 2006, CIELAP released a report entitled '**There Is No "Away" - Pharmaceuticals, Personal Care Products, and Endocrine-Disrupting Substances: Emerging Contaminants Detected in Water**'. The report was authored by Susan Holtz, Senior Policy Analyst at CIELAP.

This report provides an overview of the issue of emerging contaminants (including pharmaceuticals, personal care products and endocrine-disrupting substances) that are now being detected in low concentrations nearly everywhere in surface and groundwater, and also in treated drinking water.



The report's key recommendations include:

1. Supporting or developing province-wide product stewardship programs for return of unused drugs.
2. Significantly increasing research efforts and funding for science related to these issues, including surveillance and monitoring, environmental risks, ecological science, and human and wildlife health.
3. Increasing public education through an environmental labeling program and/or identification of products free of both suspected endocrine disruptors and antimicrobial substances linked to antibiotic resistance. As more information is acquired, problematic ingredients should be banned.
4. Supporting or developing municipal by-laws banning pharmaceuticals and other chemical discards in sewers and restricting pesticide use; ensuring enforcement capability and action.

View CIELAP's report in our publication centre at [www.cielap.org](http://www.cielap.org).

### Ontario's *Greenbelt Act & Places to Grow Act* – a CIELAP Knowledge Cluster

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.

CIELAP is holding a knowledge cluster meeting on this topic on Thursday March 30th from 5:30 – 7:00 at the CIELAP office, 130 Spadina Ave, Toronto. **Maureen Carter-Whitney**, CIELAP Research Director, will lead this session and will invite participants to give their input on and offer their assistance with this initiative.

Also consider attending our future meetings, including **Youth and Community Engagement** on April 27 2006 from 5:30 – 7:00 and **Policy Gaps in the Proposed Ontario Biodiversity Strategy**, to be held on May 25 2006 from 5:30 – 7:00.

If you haven't yet heard about our **Knowledge Clusters**, they are groups of people, similar to advisory groups, who have a specific interest and expertise in one of the 5 [core areas](#) related to CIELAP's work. Those who make up the KCs may be called upon to assist CIELAP's research at any stage of a project, including **brainstorming** ideas for new research and

funding sources, **reviewing** or **helping with research** for a report or funding proposal, **referring** us to your contacts or other information sources, or taking part in any other stage of the research process.

The **monthly meetings** will give KCs opportunities to meet and discuss future directions for addressing pressing environmental issues. When you come to a KC meeting you'll not only hear about an issue but you'll also be invited to **give your input, discuss** how CIELAP can address this issue, and you can choose to **offer your help and expertise**.

Please RSVP if you will be attending this meeting. You can also find out more about knowledge clusters and our upcoming meetings, on a variety of topics, by going to our website - <http://www.cielap.org/knowledgeclusters.html>, or by contacting Carolyn at [cielap@cielap.org](mailto:cielap@cielap.org) or by phone at 416-923-3529 ext. 26.

## One Tonne Challenge – Citizen Leaders share their success stories

CIELAP has asked **Citizen Leaders** including **Sarah Harmer** - Juno award winning singer/songwriter, Edmonton's **Mayor Stephen Mandel**, and Award-winning actor **R.H. Thomson** to tell us their stories about how they have reduced their carbon dioxide emissions.

Visit CIELAP's blog site - <http://www.cielap.blogspot.com/> - to hear what they have to say!

Take the opportunity to post your comments and let us know what you've done to reduce your own emissions. Visit the blog site regularly for new postings...

## Biotechnology Workshop

CIELAP's January 2006 newsletter announced that we would be holding a workshop on Biotechnology during the second week of March. Unfortunately due to the changeover in federal government we have had to postpone this event. We anticipate holding it in summer or fall 2006 and will send you more information as we work out the details.

## CIELAP Out of the Office

Anne Mitchell, CIELAP's Executive Director, will be heading to **GLOBE 2006**, the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Trade Fair & Conference on Business and the Environment taking place March 29 – 31 in Vancouver.

Anne and Maureen, CIELAP's Research Director, have been speaking to college and university students at Ryerson University and the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD). If there is a forum that you would like CIELAP to speak at please contact us to discuss possibilities.

## Volunteers Corner

In 2006 CIELAP welcomed several new volunteers.

Sarah Ross finished her degree in Environmental Studies and Geography at Queens University in 2005. Sarah's primary environmental interest is water – she wrote her 4<sup>th</sup> year thesis on water privatization in South Africa. She has been assisting CIELAP's fundraising efforts and working to disseminate CIELAP's Citizens Guides to Pollution Prevention and Biotechnology.

Yinka Obasa is an environmental lawyer originally from South Africa who has moved to Canada to pursue her work. She will be contributing to CIELAP's research activities and monitoring arising environmental issues.

Marta Diaz, a student from Spain, is finishing up her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies at York University. She is contributing capacity-building work at CIELAP.

Dan Panday was trained as a Water Resources Engineer in Guyana. He has since moved to Canada and is contributing his time to CIELAP's capacity-building work.

Welcome to all of our volunteers who are making CIELAP's work possible.