

Your quarterly update on happenings at CIELAP!

[What's New](#) | [Events and Happenings](#) | [Staff News](#) | [Links of Interest](#)

Welcome to the Fall edition of the CIELAP newsletter, designed to keep you up to date on the latest CIELAP news and events. The CIELAP newsletter is published quarterly for the CIELAP community. The next edition will feature a new section of the newsletter where members of the CIELAP community can post interesting news items, announcements, or promote upcoming events. If you have anything that you would like to pass on that pertains to environmental law or policy (interesting news stories, recent happenings, up coming events) then please email them to us care of veronica@cielap.org and we will print them in the next edition to be released in January.

WHAT'S NEW

This October, Anne and Jennifer traveled to Ottawa to meet with federal departments regarding the findings of CIELAP's paper "[Sustainable Development in Canada: A New Federal Plan.](#)" CIELAP's newest paper was funded by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the J W McConnell Family Foundation, and was written under the direction of Karen Clark. The paper is a critical examination of the rhetoric surrounding sustainability, including the struggle to define the term, the use of indicators, and the role of innovation in moving towards a more sustainable society. Written in easy-to-understand language, the discussion around sustainability helps to "blow the dust" off of some of the terms and definitions surrounding sustainable development.

The report specifically examines Canada's approach to sustainable development. At the World Summit on the Environment and Sustainable Development in 1992, Canada committed to preparing a national strategy for sustainable development. Canada's approach has been to assign this task to the different departments and ministries, requiring them to produce sustainable development strategies every three years. CIELAP argues that this has resulted in an uncoordinated, ineffective approach to sustainable development in this country that cannot be called a federal strategy, let alone a national strategy.

"Sustainable Development in Canada: A New Federal Plan" suggests a new approach for the federal government. The proposed "Four-Step Plan" involves defining an SD objective using all actors in sustainability (government, NGOs, industry), setting short terms goals to reach the objective, measuring progress using indicators, and testing for sustainability to see if the objective has been met.

In Ottawa, CIELAP met with civil servants responsible for writing sustainable development strategies including Environment, Natural Resources, Health, and Finance. Many individuals supported CIELAP's opinions, recognizing the lack of a cohesive federal or national strategy themselves. CIELAP was invited to return to Ottawa to speak with the Inter-Departmental Network of Sustainable Development Strategies, as well as to the NDP caucus.

Anthony Watanabe from the Strategy Institute traveled to Ottawa as well to speak about the upcoming "Partnering for Sustainability" conference scheduled for April 8-9 in Toronto. The conference is a unique partnership between a for-profit conference developer and an NGO. The

purpose of the conference is to highlight successful sustainable partnership initiatives between not-for-profit, government, and industry in Canada. The Canadian government has chosen “Innovation and Partnership” as one of the five themes around which to develop the national presentation in Johannesburg, 2002. Therefore, the conference is an excellent and timely opportunity to showcase Canada’s achievements, and to encourage more partnerships leading up to Johannesburg 2002.

CIELAP is well placed as a key NGO player leading up to the World Summit next year. We hope to carry forward the momentum and enthusiasm from our meetings in Ottawa to a highly successful conference next April.

CIELAP bolsters its biotech programs

CIELAP is preparing an interim report for CIDA on its three-year program on biotechnology and organic agriculture with Fundacion Ambio. Fundacion Ambio's model law on biosafety has been translated into English; Fundacion Ambio has developed a Citizens' Guide to Biotechnology in Spanish and is distributing this in Costa Rica. They have also developed a guidebook on organic in transition, also in Spanish. These Spanish documents will be on our website soon.

As well, CIELAP has prepared a brief report on regulations in Canada and our [commitments to the Biosafety Protocol](#).

The labelling issue is still a matter of great debate in Canada. There is currently an industry led initiative on voluntary labelling and two bills have been introduced into the House of Commons on mandatory labelling. Comments on the voluntary labelling initiative have to be in by October 17 2001, by fax, letter or email to:

Team Leader, Project on the Voluntary Labelling of Food Obtained or Not Obtained Through Genetic Modification

Canadian General Standards Board

fax (819) 956-5740

email: ncr.cgsb-ongc@pwgsc.gc.ca.

Mailing address: 11 Laurier St, Place du

Portage, Phase III, Hull, Quebec, K1A 1G6.

The two mandatory bills are Bill C-287, and Bill C-310, both are acts to amend the Food and Drugs Act. Bill C-287 was introduced by the Hon Charles Caccia (Davenport, Liberal) on February 28 2001. Charles Caccia moved on May 7 2001 that this bill be read for the second time and be referred to a committee. The bill has been debated on two occasions in the House of Commons. There may be another debate in the current session of Parliament. This bill may be referred to a committee for further study.

Bill C-310 was introduced into the House on March 28 by Ms Judy Wasylcia-Leis, Winnipeg, North Centre, NDP. The bill has not been debated in the House of Commons at this time. A motion could be made for a second reading in the current session of Parliament.

Now is the time to contact your [Member of Parliament](#) on this issue. Tell him or her what your views are on your right to know what is in your food. Should genetically modified foods be labelled as such?

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Green Power Trade Show

Christine Elwell, who recently joined CIELAP from the Sierra Club of Canada is organizing this year's Green Power Trade Show.

Given the tremendous success last year at the First Annual Green Power Trade Show with the Independent Power Producer's Society of Ontario (IPPSO), we are pleased to announce our efforts to make this show even better. We will build upon the connections made between civil society and Green Power producers and further develop the market and policy framework necessary to create a sustainable energy future. With the electricity market open to retail competition in 2002, the time to ensure vibrant Green Power markets in Ontario is now. Consumers will soon have the information necessary to make environmentally sound power purchases.

With our partners the Sierra Club and the Toronto Environmental Alliance, Green Power choices will be introduced to key community leaders and socially responsible investors at this year's Green Power Trade Show! We intend to profile many small Green Power businesses in Ontario to the emerging consumers, municipalities and industry interested in sustainable energy options.

The Green Power Trade Show is being held in conjunction with IPPSO's annual conference. The event will put Green Power producers, suppliers of equipment and financial services, together with potential Green Power consumers, including the growing number of energy co-operatives from across the province. Examples of current initiatives such as the Toronto Renewable Co-op (TREC) will be featured. Please join us

November 27th and 28th – Mark your calendars!

Dates:

- Tuesday, November 27th, 2001, 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 28th, 2001, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Place: Sheraton Parkway North Hotel, just north of Toronto,

Media Events and Announcements: November 27th, noon

For further information and details on registration, contact:

Christine Elwell, CIELAP (416) 923-3529 ext. 25 christine@cielap.org and/or Kim Neill at Sierra Club Eastern Chapter (416) 960-9606

To register as a Green Power Trade Show exhibitor, contact: Mike Coughlan, Marketing Manager at IPPSO directly at (416) 482-9018

Annual General Meeting: November 2001

CIELAP will host its Annual General Meeting on November 15th at 6:30 pm in Toronto. Highlights include the release of our new three year strategic plan and a presentation by Rod McRae and Ken McMullan on the links between climate change and agriculture. We will keep you posted about location and further topics to be discussed.

STAFF NEWS

During the month of September, CIELAP welcomed not only a new full time staff member, but also a new group of fantastic volunteers and interns.

Welcome to Christine!

We are pleased to inform you that Christine Elwell joined CIELAP on September 4 as our Senior Legal and Policy Analyst. Christine is an international environmental lawyer with a wealth of knowledge in the environmental law and policy area. She will be working on our 6th year report on the Ontario's Environment; our Sustainable Toronto project; our partnership project with the Water Information Network and working with the many student interns who want to work at CIELAP.

As well, Christine will be helping us develop our next three year strategic plan and we look forward to her expertise, energy and commitment to CIELAP as we chart our course for the next three years and beyond. Christine can be reached at CIELAP at 416-923-3529 ext 25 or by email at christine@cielap.org.

Interesting Interns

Sandra Patano and Steven Ferracane, interns from York University are working on projects associated with Sustainable Toronto.

Andrea Bailey, a law student from U of T, is helping CIELAP to research and analyze the debate on patenting higher life forms as well as other issues related to biotechnology.

Various Volunteers

Volunteers continue to provide valuable contributions to CIELAP.

Ludwika Juchniewicz is working on research on biotechnology.

Veronica Chau, is doing research for the 6th Year Report on Ontario's Environment, coordinating volunteers and acting as editor of the newsletter.

D.T. Smeh, a third year Environmental Studies student from U of T will be developing a new information management system for CIELAP.

Jack Sun and Tom Smallwood continue to provide invaluable IT support.

LINKS OF INTEREST

This section features a selection of internet sites that do not pertain to CIELAP directly but which we find pretty interesting and thought that you might too. If you know of any interesting sites pertaining to environmental or related issues that you would like to pass on, please e-mail them to us at veronica@cielap.org

www.electricitychoices.org A site produced by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance that offers plain-language explanations of all the ins and outs of the new deregulated energy market in Ontario. As the date for the opening of the Ontario electricity market approaches, consumers are already being bombarded with sales pitches claiming discounts, special prices and sign-up-now deals. But very few of the current sellers talk about emissions or how their prices compare to forecast open-market prices. This site features easy to use calculators that help users to compare prices -- and emissions!

www.greenearthorganics.com Green Earth Organics is a home delivery service- offering delivery of farm-fresh organic produce to homes throughout the Toronto area. When you purchase a box of organic produce from Green Earth Organics, 10% of the profits from every delivery goes to non-profit organizations