

September-October 2000

*Your quarterly update on happenings at CIELAP!*

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The months of September and October have been busy ones at CIELAP. In late October we released our fifth annual "Ontario's Environment and the Common Sense Revolution" report. CIELAP also hosted a workshop bringing together environmental groups from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to discuss the use of pollutant release data in communities across North America. On October 26, CIELAP celebrated its 30th anniversary with a dinner at Wetmore Hall, at the University of Toronto.

We have been fortunate to have new volunteers come on board during September and October. These volunteers have contributed to CIELAP projects by providing research and writing on various projects. Volunteers also assisted in the preparations for our 30th anniversary celebration.

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## **RECENT RELEASES**

### **CIELAP Issues Fifth "Ontario's Environment" Report**

On October 23, CIELAP announced the publication of its fifth "Ontario's Environment and the Common Sense Revolution" report. This series of reports has become CIELAP's "flagship" publication. Each year the report reaches out to a wider audience, helping to inform decision-makers and the concerned public about important aspects of Ontario's environmental health. This year's report provides context and analysis on key government initiatives such as Drive Clean and the proposed amendments to the hazardous waste regulations. The report also sheds light on high-profile environmental issues: the Walkerton Tragedy, the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Adams Mine and Ontario's Living Legacy Strategy. You can order your copy of the report by calling the CIELAP offices at (416) 923-3529 ext.28 [or download it from this website](#).

### **CIELAP Releases a Citizen's Guide on Pollutant Releases**

In August 2000, CIELAP released "A Citizen's Guide to the National Pollutant Release Inventory". The guide, written by John Jackson, is the third in CIELAP's series of citizen's

guides. It provides readers with a plain language resource on what pollutants are being released into their environment by which facilities. The information on pollutant releases used in this Citizens' Guide comes from the companies themselves and is compiled by Environment Canada into something called the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI). This Guide provides readers with the information they need to encourage facilities to reduce or eliminate their releases of pollutants and we hope it will be useful to readers wherever they are - at home, in school, in the community or at work.

The guide is available in both English and French. You can order your copy of the guide by calling the CIELAP offices at (416) 923-3529 ext.28 [or download it from this website](#).

### **Submission to Environment Canada Regarding the Policy Framework on Environmental Performance Agreements, October 2000**

In October, CIELAP drafted a statement on Environmental Performance Agreements for the Canadian Environment Network.

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## **NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS**

### **CIELAP Sets The Federal Agenda**

The Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation has granted funds to CIELAP to prepare an "Agenda for Sustainability" for the federal government. Whichever party wins the election in November will have in hand by the spring of 2001 CIELAP's concise and detailed document showing the way government should go to achieve sustainability. The report will review the trends in key areas such as consumption and waste, toxics and pollution, habitat and biodiversity conservation and make recommendations on policy options.

### **CIELAP Joins Exciting New Research Alliance**

CIELAP has joined nine other environmental groups, the City of Toronto, the University of Toronto and York University in a joint community/university research project. With the working title "Sustainable Toronto", the project matches up the energy and expertise of university students and faculty with on the ground research needs of environmental groups. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, "Sustainable Toronto" is unprecedented and very promising. CIELAP's project focuses on gathering existing data about water resources in the province of Ontario. A web site based resource and a report will be our first product from our Sustainable Toronto partnership, with more to come in the future.

### **Partnership with Environmental Law Group in Costa Rica**

CIELAP's partner, Fundacion Ambio, from Costa Rica, was able to join us for our 30th anniversary celebration. Mario Carazo, President of Fundacion Ambio and Roxana Salazar, Executive Director spent a few days with us in Toronto discussing the work plan for year three of our joint program on the regulation of agricultural products of biotechnology and the promotion of organic agriculture. The focus of the work together will be on outreach and education on these issues and helping farmers in Costa Rica move to organic agriculture.

### **Pollutant Release and Transfers (NPRI) 1998 Map**

CIELAP is working on a follow-up to its 1996 Canadian Pollutant Releases and Transfers (NPRI) map. The new map will use 1998 data from the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) to depict pollution hotspots in Canada. The map will be available free of charge to students, teachers and researchers as of January 2001.

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## **EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS**

### **CIELAP Hosts Workshop on Using Pollutant Release Data in North American Communities**

On October 23, 2000, in Toronto, the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP), the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund (CEDF) and the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) hosted a workshop on pollutant release and transfer registries (PRTR). The workshop brought together representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to discuss the use of PRTR data at the community level.

The workshop identified issues confronting NGOs in using pollutant release data. Discussion focused on the resources and support needed by NGOs to implement PRTR data related projects and programs at the community level. The workshop provided valuable insight on designing PRTR data support and outreach programs.

### **CIELAP Celebrates its 30th Anniversary**

On the evening of October 26, CIELAP celebrated its 30th anniversary with a dinner at Wetmore Hall at the University of Toronto. Over 300 guests attended the event to celebrate CIELAP's achievements over the past 30 years. The event featured a speaking engagement by Janine Benyus, whose presentation on biomimicry was both fascinating and informative.

CIELAP would like to thank all those who attended the event. The evening was a great success thanks to the hard work of Jessica Mendes, CIELAP's Special Projects Coordinator, and the many volunteers who assisted Jessica during the preparations for the event and throughout the evening.

### **CIELAP's Annual General Meeting: November 30, 2000**

CIELAP's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday November 30 from 6 - 9 pm in the board room of Davies, Ward & Beck, 1 First Canadian Place, 45th Floor. Please RSVP to [Kumarie Khadoo](mailto:kumarie.khadoo@cielap.org) at 416-923-3529 ext 28. As well as hearing reports on the year past and reviewing our audited financial statements, we will be discussing some of our plans for 2001 and the development of our next 5 year plan. We look forward to hearing your ideas and input.

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### **STAFF NEWS**

We are happy to announce that Romila Verma, CIELAP Project Officer gave birth to a baby girl, Isha, on August 22, 2000. Romila is on maternity leave until January 2001. Congratulations Romila!

In October 2000, Amanda Montgomery, 4th year environmental studies student at the University of Toronto joined CIELAP as an intern. Amanda is working on CIELAP's biotechnology project with our Costa Rican partner Fundacion Ambio. Welcome aboard Amanda!

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