



Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

L'Institut Canadien du Droit et de la Politique de L'Environnement



Annual Report 2000 - 2001

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE
CHAIR AND
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

DEAR FRIENDS OF CIELAP

We are reporting to you on our past year's work at a sobering time in our world's history. The tragic events of September 11 have made it even more clear that a military response to contain terrorism will not address the underlying problems that we are facing. Rather we need a response to address environmental degradation, social inequities and how to promote sustainable communities. CIELAP has begun the process of trying to analyze the implications for us and our work. Re-emphasizing our intent to promote sustainable development could help address some of the real ecological and societal problems we are facing both in Canada and globally. We know that the North American way of life is not sustainable. We know that poverty and inequities within and between societies foment discontent. Is there a role for CIELAP to address these huge issues through promoting a more sustainable way of living and of making decisions? We strongly believe that there is.

We are pleased to report to you that during the past year, CIELAP has managed to eliminate its deficit and secure an operating surplus of \$50,000. This has come about by determination and hard work on the part of the staff, interns, volunteers and Board of CIELAP. We are now in a position to take stock of where we are and dream about where we want to be.

During the year under review we set up a board/staff planning committee to develop our next strategic plan. This is the final year of our current five year strategic plan. The planning committee will present our draft strategic plan to you at our Annual General Meeting. And, once approved, copies of the strategic plan will be made available to our funders, our donors and other potential supporters. We are excited about our future direction which will build on our past history and expertise and will focus on four key program areas: developing sustainable policy solutions; engaging the public in these solutions; and developing and promoting better government and corporate decision-making and leadership for sustainability.

The past year continued to be one of change for CIELAP. Key staff members left the organization: Mark Winfield, is now with the Pembina Institute; Karen Clark is now with the City of Toronto; James Yacoumidis is now with the regional office of Environment Canada; and Kumarie Khadoo left to have her second child. New staff also joined: Jennifer McKay through a program of the J W McConnell Family Foundation for young leaders; Anicia Bonilla as our office administrator; and Christine Elwell as senior legal and policy analyst.

There were many successes during the year. Here are a few of the highlights: we released our fifth annual report on Ontario's environment in October; we celebrated our 30th anniversary in October; along with our Costa Rican partners, we participated in the Peoples' Summit and the Symposium on Free Trade in Quebec City in April; with our partners, the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Canadian Environmental Defence Funds, we launched www.pollutionwatch.org in April; and we completed a major report entitled *Sustainable Development in Canada: A New Federal Plan* in June. We also continued with two other successful partnerships: Fundacion Ambio in Costa Rica on issues related to biotechnology and organic agriculture; and Sustainable Toronto on water issues.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to staff, volunteers, interns, board members, funders and all of you for your help to CIELAP in the past year. With our deficit behind us, we look forward to another year of successes as we support the process of developing more stable and sustainable communities.

We look forward to your continued support.

David Powell
President

Anne Mitchell
Executive Director

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The Canadian Institute of Environmental Law and Policy enters this coming year with new people, new partnerships, and a new strategy for the future.

First the people - CIELAP has a new office administrator, Anicia Bonilla. She replaces Kumarie Khadoo who left after the birth of her second child to spend more time with her children. Jennifer McKay, who came to CIELAP on a young leaders grant from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation in the winter, is staying on to help organize a conference on sustainable development scheduled for April 2002. Finally, Christine Elwell from the Sierra Club of Canada has joined CIELAP as senior policy and legal analyst. The Institute organized two going away luncheons during the summer to thank Karen Clark, who left to work for the City of Toronto, and James Yacoumidis, who left to work for Environment Canada.

As in previous years, CIELAP has been fortunate in its interns. York University student Daniella Molnar added to the Institute's research into the state of water information and management in Ontario. University of Toronto student John Coelho investigated the new Ontario regulation requiring industry to report on their emissions and Alex Munro, a student at Niagara College, researched the nature of brownfield sites – old industrial sites that are considered polluted. This fall, two environmental interns from York University and three pro bono interns from Osgoode Hall Law School and several volunteers from the University of Toronto came to work at CIELAP.

Next the new direction – CIELAP's planning committee has developed a three-year strategic plan that focuses the Institute's programming into four related areas. The common thread is sustainable development. CIELAP will focus on the policy solutions to the environmental problems associated with sustainable development in Canada. Second, the Institute will develop a program on governance for sustainability program. Third, the Institute will further its community-right-to-know program by providing the tools local residents need to research environmental problems in their area and take action. Fourth, CIELAP will help community residents, and especially the youth, become the leaders they need to be to have a greater say in their own future.

Finally the partnerships – there are two news ones and a former one that has been renewed after a seven-year hiatus. CIELAP has linked up with the Strategy Institute of Toronto to organize the *Partnering for Sustainability* conference scheduled for April 2002. CIELAP will present its recently released, and well received, report *Sustainable Development in Canada: A New Federal Plan* at the conference. Earlier this year CIELAP staff presented papers at three workshops organized by the for-profit institute, one on hazardous waste and two on water.

CIELAP has joined a coalition that will seek leave to intervene when the Supreme Court of Canada hears the appeal on patenting the genetically modified mouse called the Harvard onco-mouse. The court will hear the appeal later this year or early in 2002. The coalition includes Greenpeace, Rural Advancement Foundation International, the Canadian Association for Physicians for the Environment and the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

Finally, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment has asked CIELAP to research and write a *Citizens' Guide to Airborne Emissions in Ontario*.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY 2000 TO JUNE 2001

AT HOME.

In June 2001, CIELAP published the *How to Guide for Municipalities*, to help municipalities and conservation authorities find the information they need about the quality and quantity of water in Ontario. The report is part of a larger project that the Institute is working on

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with Sustainable Toronto called the *State of Water Information in Ontario*. Sustainable Toronto is a joint community and university research alliance that includes nine community groups, the City of Toronto and York University and the University of Toronto. In the coming year, CIELAP will continue its work on the information and management of groundwater and surface water. Further, the Institute will oversee research into best practices in other jurisdictions and organize a workshop on the subject for the spring of 2002. Still on water, the Institute will continue to work on the water information network. This is a joint project with the Toronto Environmental Alliance and Riversides Stewardship Alliance, also of Toronto, to set up an information web site and speakers bureau on water in the Toronto area.

In April, CIELAP, the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund launched Pollutionwatch.org at <http://www.Pollutionwatch.org>. Based on a similar site in the United States, Pollutionwatch.org allows users to find out what companies are emitting which pollutants in their neighbourhoods. Within 48 hours of its launch, the web site had received more than one million hits. The U.S.- based Joyce Foundation is providing support for the site for the year 2001-2002. We are looking for Canadian funders.

Also in April, members of CIELAP's staff and board as well as a number of volunteers attended the Peoples' Summit and the Symposium on the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas in Quebec City. CIELAP's executive director Anne Mitchell and members of CIELAP's Costa Rican partner, the Fundacion Ambio presented a workshop on biotechnology at the Peoples' summit and participated in three other panels at the Symposium.

In October 2000, CIELAP published the fifth in its annual reports on the state the environment under the present provincial government, *Ontario's Environment and the Common Sense Revolution: A Fifth Year Report*, parts of which were submitted to the Walkerton Inquiry. The sixth report, with a focus on policy recommendations, is in the works and will be out later this year.

Also in the fall, CIELAP released the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) map. The Institute used the data from Environment Canada's 1998 NPRI report to create this poster which is a map of Canada showing the country's most polluted areas. With the financial support of Environment Canada, CIELAP published the poster in English and French and mailed more than 2,000 copies to libraries and school boards across Canada. Plans are afoot to publish another map using data from the 2000 NPRI report.

Finally CIELAP completed the survey of clients and wrote up its lessons learned on its best-selling guide to environmental law, *Environment on Trial: A Guide to Ontario Environmental Law and Policy*. This coming year CIELAP hopes to secure the funding required to begin researching and writing the fourth edition.

AND ABROAD.

CIELAP staff took the NPRI map and the citizens' guide to the NPRI to a NPRI workshop for stakeholders in Dallas, Texas this past spring. Staff members presented a seminar on community-right-know programs and tools such as CIELAP's citizens' guides, NPRI map and Pollutionwatch.org that further these programs. One result was that Mexican non-governmental organizations asked CIELAP to participate in a workshop of Mexican NGOs in December 2001.

In the summer, CIELAP staff attended the meeting of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the Joint Public Advisory Committee in Mexico. The commission was set up under the North America Free Trade Agreement and the committee is one of many associated with the commission. CIELAP's representative Jennifer McKay commented on the commission's work and networked with her American and Mexican counterparts on how non-government organizations can work more closely to deal with environmental problems that affect North America.

CIELAP's long-standing partnership with its counterpart in Costa Rica, the Fundacion Ambio continues to grow and prosper. As previously mentioned staff members of the Fundacion Ambio and CIELAP participated in the Peoples' Summit and the Symposium on the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas at Quebec City. The two organizations are working on citizens' guides to biotechnology and organic agriculture as well as considering their future together.

Finally, CIELAP's 30th anniversary party was a roaring success raising more than \$20,000 in one night. Many companies, organizations and foundations contributed money and in-kind services to make this special evening memorable. Bank of Montreal contributed \$10,000 so CIELAP could bring 100 students from Toronto, York and Ryerson universities to the dinner to hear guest speaker Janine Benyus, talk about biomimicry, the title of her seventh book *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*. For their support, in various ways, CIELAP is grateful to the International Development Research Centre, Falconbridge Limited, Ontario Power Generation, NIKE, Inco Ltd., Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto, Emond Montgomery Publications, Union Copy, Green Living Editorial Services, Delcan, Elf Atochem, University of Toronto Bookstore, *NOW Magazine*, *Vitality Magazine*, Atlas Moves Watching, Vincent Tucket Limited, Sustainability Network, Green Ontario and People and Planet Friendly Events – and of course the staff, the board and the volunteers who made this event possible.

The firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) has audited the statement of financial position of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) as at June 30 2001 and the statement of financial activities and surplus and cash flows for the year then ended. In PWC's opinion, "these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at June 30 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles". (Extract from PWC letter to the Directors of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, October 11 2001)

CIELAP's total revenue for the year under review was \$647,200. Expenditures were \$595,000.

The audited financial statements will be available at the AGM, November 15 in Toronto and, thereafter, on request from the CIELAP office.

We thank all of our funders and donors for their financial support over the past year.

Murray Klippenstein
Treasurer

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Sustainable Toronto-Community University Research Alliance (CURA)
Waste Diversion Organization

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INTERNS AND
VOLUNTEERS

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Eva Ligeti
Farhana Mather (resigned, Jan 2001)
Theresa McCleneghan
Ellie Perkins
David Powell
Peter Victor (resigned, May 2001)
John Vincett

STAFF:

Anicia Bonilla, Office Administrator
(began, April 2001)
Karen Clark, Legal Analyst (resigned, June
2001)
Christine Elwell, Senior Policy and Legal
Analyst (began, Sept 2001)
Kumaria Khadoo, Administrative Assistant
(maternity leave, April 2001)
Stephen Kotze, Accountant (contract)
Jennifer McKay, Researcher (began, Jan
2001)
Jessica Mendes, Special Events Coordinator
(to Dec 2000)
Anne Mitchell, Executive Director
Romila Verma, Project Officer (maternity
leave, Aug 2000)
James Yacoumidis, Project Officer (resigned,
June 2001)
Mark Winfield, Director of Research
(resigned, March 2001)

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