

RCEN AGA 2008 – Presentations, Workshops and Speaker Bios

Friday, October 24th

7:00pm

Indigenous Prophecies as they relate to Climate Change, Environment and Human Life Style in the Modern Day

With Alex Ahenakew, National Cree Elders Working Group Chair and Board Member of the Indigenous Environmental Network

Saturday, October 25th

1:00pm

Whose Security? Whose Prosperity? Busting the Myths of Continental Integration

With Stuart Trew, Ontario-Québec Regional Organizer - Council of Canadians

In March 2005, the leaders of Canada, Mexico and the United States met in Waco, Texas to develop a platform for greater economic and security integration across the North American continent. Without prior public consultation, they came up with an agenda called the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), which contained nearly 300 recommendations for closer cooperation, including a common strategy for tackling environmental issues like climate change. Progressive groups across North America worry that continental economic integration is reducing our capacity to act to protect the environment, our health, and people from security policies that offer no net increase in real security for anyone. Corporation of the sort envisioned in the SPP effectively handcuffs local and national governments who would plow ahead with more innovative or more urgent action on the environment. It's not hard to see how a North American energy strategy that demands a fivefold increase in Alberta tar sands production – one of many SPP initiatives – will have a catastrophic impact on the world and actually hold back Canada from meeting its Kyoto targets. This presentation will examine the arguments for and against the type of integration offered by the SPP, and suggest other, more inclusive and productive arrangements that have been excluded from current trilateral discussions.

Stuart Trew - Biography

As the Ontario-Québec regional organizer for the Council of Canadians, Stuart Trew is responsible for a dozen volunteer chapters in Ontario and Quebec who engage local politicians and coalitions on national and local campaign issues, including the ongoing opposition to the SPP. He is the author of two reports for the Council on the SPP -- *Behind Closed Doors* in 2007 and *Not Counting Canadians* in 2008 -- and until recently maintained the Council's Integrate This! website devoted to highlighting government policies aimed at furthering economic and security integration with the United States.

3:00pm

CIELAP's Nanotechnology Workshop

With Carolyn Webb, Communications and Project Officer - Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP)

CIELAP's workshop will give an overview of the risks and promises of nanotechnology as well as how policymakers and other actors in Canada and around the world are responding to this quickly emerging issue. Workshop participants will be introduced to CIELAP's work in the area and the organization's proposed timeline benchmarks for government action. Participants will then engage in a discussion about priorities for future action. Participants are encouraged to read CIELAP's 11-page Discussion Paper on a Framework for Canadian Nanotechnology Policy, March 2008, before the workshop. This and other background materials can be accessed at http://www.cielap.org/pub/pub_2008NanoUpdate.php. Those who are interested can also learn

about CIELAP's two multi-stakeholder workshops on nanotechnology at http://www.cielap.org/NanoWorkshop_main.php.

Carolyn Webb - Biography

Carolyn Webb, Communications and Project Officer at CIELAP, is responsible for aspects of communications, funding development, research, and project coordination. At CIELAP she is currently working on an independent review of the Waste Diversion Act and organizing a workshop that feeds into the UN's Commission for Sustainable Development process, entitled "Achieving Resilient Agricultural Systems: Innovation, People and Partnerships". Carolyn puts her spare time towards InterChange: Institute for Community-Based Peacebuilding, an organization that she helped co-found in 2004. She completed her Masters in Adult Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, and has a Bachelors degree in Environmental Sciences and Statistics from the University of Guelph.

3:00pm

Taking Action on Children's Environmental Health

With Barb MacKinnon, Mary Ann Coleman and Erica Phipps

Interest in the impact environmental toxins have on children's health has been increasing greatly internationally over the past decade. We know that children are particularly vulnerable due to their small size, rapid growth rate, and developing immune system. We also know that if we take action to reduce exposures to a level safe for children, that we are providing the best protection for all members of society. This workshop will summarize the basics of vulnerability of children to environmental exposures, what actions Canada is taking, an example of a provincial multi-stakeholder process, and the national consultation process undertaken by the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment.

3:00- 3:15- Barbara MacKinnon, New Brunswick Lung Association. "Children's Health and Environmental Exposures- A Backgrounder."

3:15- 3:30- Mary Ann Coleman, New Brunswick Environmental Network. "New Brunswick's Children's Environmental Health Strategy."

3:30- 3:45- Erica Phipps, Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE). "Developing a National Strategy for Children's Environmental Health."

3:45- 4:00- Participant contributions and recommendations.

Erica Phipps – Biography

Erica Phipps serves as Partnership Director for the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca), a position she has held since March 2008. In 2007, she served as the report writer for CPCHE's cross-Canada National Policy Consultation workshop series, and has worked as an environmental health consultant for a number of other clients, including Health Canada and the World Health Organization, since 2003. From 1999-2003, Erica served as program coordinator for the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), where she developed and managed a program on children's health and the environment, and produced the CEC's annual "Taking Stock" report on industrial pollution. Prior to joining the CEC, Erica worked for the United Nations in Geneva, assisting developing countries in strengthening institutional capacities to manage toxic chemicals and pesticides, and for the US Environmental Protection Agency in the office of toxic substances and pollution prevention. Erica has a masters' degree in public health from the University of Michigan, where she specialized in environmental health and public policy. She lives in the Ottawa area with her husband and three young children.

4:00pm

Uranium: Coming Soon to a Lung Near You

Hosted by: Phillip Penna, Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative, and Donna Dillman, The Community Coalition Against Mining Uranium along with Jamie Kneen of MiningWatch Canada

Uranium is a toxic substance. It is toxic both to individual and community/social health. This session will explore both of these related hazards inherent to the uranium industry. Phillip Penna will present recent and disturbing information from European researchers on how uranium acts once it is ingested into the human body. Donna Dillman will share her experiences of resisting uranium exploration in Eastern Ontario and reflect on the social implications of this industry on individual communities. Jamie Kneen will present an overview of other areas across Canada where uranium exploration and mining pressures are increasing. They hope that workshop participants will be able to share their own stories from across the country as well. The session will be action oriented with the hope that a network or alliance of concerned citizens and organizations can be formed to monitor this Canada-wide resurgence in uranium exploration.

8:00pm

The Ugly, the Bad and the Good – Keynote Speech on Health and the Environment

With Dr. Lynn Marshall, M.D.

The strong and moderate evidence linking “ugly” and “bad” environmental hazards to health outcomes, and “good” practical pointers to protect ourselves and our families. Much has changed in our environment over the past 60 years. To protect ourselves, our children, and future generations, we need to know:

- Who are our most vulnerable citizens and why
- What are the most common environment-associated health outcomes
- What are the most commonly encountered substances in air, food, water, soil and consumer products that are known or suspected to have harmful health effects
- What strategies we can use individually and collectively to ensure that exposures to known or suspected hazardous substances are reduced or eliminated.

Dr. Lynn Marshall - Biography

Dr. Lynn Marshall is a faculty member of both the University of Toronto and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and teaches both medical students and graduate physicians. Besides an M.D. from Queen’s University, she has Fellowships in the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, and the Royal Society of Medicine in Great Britain. She serves as Co-Chair of the Environmental Health Committee of the Ontario College of Family Physicians, as President and Chair of the Board of the Environmental Health Institute of Canada, and as Medical Education Liaison and Past Medical Director of the University of Toronto-affiliated Environmental Health Clinic at Women’s College Hospital, Toronto. She has practiced in Australia and small town/rural Ontario. She has also received several Environmental Health Awards.

Sunday, October 26^h

10:45am

Living on Earth as If We Want to Stay

With Mike Nickerson, Author and Coordinator - The Sustainability Project

When necessary, humans can change quickly. How much calamity will it take, before we recognize that it is necessary to cut loose from the ideological anchor of perpetual Growth? The customs, institutions, values and goals which presently underlie decision-making are like obsolete software. They were established when the Earth was huge and human impacts made little difference. Today it is human impacts that are huge. We must review the goal of expanding GDP.

Reorganization will be necessary before we can stop expanding without triggering recession or depression. The sort of changes needed, along with a history of how mutual provision (the economy) has evolved to its present form and the changing effects it has had on communities and the environment are topics that will be addressed in this workshop.



Mike Nickerson - Biography

Mike Nickerson first encountered sustainability as a co-director of the Institute for the Study of Cultural Evolution. The organization's study of the aspirations and concerns of citizens' groups culminated in 1974 with the point form summary, now known as the Guideposts for a Sustainable Future. In 1990, Mr. Nickerson completed production of the Guideposts for a Sustainable Future video along with an accompanying workshop kit. His newest book titled "[*Life, Money & Illusion*](#)" was published in June 2006. Currently he coordinates the Sustainability Project and an initiative to establish a Genuine Progress Index for Canada.

10:45am

Electro-Smog and Electro-Sensitivity: What you Need to Know to Protect Yourself *With Dr. Magda Havas, Environmental & Resource Studies, Trent University*

A growing population is become sensitive to electromagnetic radiation. Symptoms resemble aging and this illness is referred to as either *electrohypersensitivity* (EHS) or *rapid aging syndrome* (RAS). It affects young and old alike although children may be more sensitive to this form of energy. Symptoms include cancers; elevated blood sugar; miscarriages; neurological disorders; cognitive dysfunction; chronic pain and chronic fatigue; sleeping problems; skin, eye and ear problems. With our increasing reliance on wireless technology, our exposure to electromagnetic energy at higher frequencies is increasing. This workshop will review the literature on the harmful effects of electromagnetic radiation and examine ways people can reduce their exposure. A short questionnaire will enable individuals to determine their relative electro-sensitivity.



Dr. Magda Havas - Biography

Dr. Magda Havas, B.Sc., Ph.D is Associate Professor of Environmental and Resource Studies at Trent University where she teaches and does research on the biological effects of electromagnetic fields, dirty electricity, ground current, radio frequency radiation and electrical hypersensitivity. She is working with diabetics and those with multiple sclerosis who are responding adversely to power quality issues in their homes. Dr. Havas received her B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. She has co-edited 3 books, has more than 100 publications and is science advisor on EMF-related issues to non-profit organizations, including WEEP Initiative in Canada.