

This went to Star, Sun, radio stations

FOR RELEASE, DECEMBER 6th 1974
2:30 p.m.

The Canadian Environmental Law Association received the \$10,000.00 White Owl Conservation Award in Montreal today. The Group Award and Trophy, in recognition of outstanding achievement, was presented by Madame J. Sauvé, Federal Minister of the Environment, to the Canadian Environmental Law Association as the organization "deemed to have contributed most (in 1974 towards the preservation of our environment."

CELA was presented this award for its efforts and achievements over the year, highlighted by both their book Environment On Trial: A Citizen's Guide to Ontario Environmental Law, and its work in Environmental Impact Assessment research and law reform.

Environment on Trial has made clear the maze of laws surrounding the planning and administration of the environment to many Ontario citizens and is written in layman's language. Walter Pitman of the Toronto Star said: "...If every concerned Ontario citizen could get his hands on this book, we would really get somewhere in our struggle for clean air and water and an unadulterated wilderness.."

The environmental law reform work, primarily the work of the Environmental Impact Assessment law reform team at CELA, working in Ontario, has written several publications encouraging legislation that will maximize citizen participation. The Environmental Impact Assessment Team produced a Brief "Submissions Concerning The Ministry of Environment 'Green Paper' On Environmental Assessment" which has been supported by many municipalities, nature and conservation authorities, private citizens and corporations supporting the work of the Team.

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Canadian
Environmental
Law
Association
L'Association
canadienne
du droit
de l'environnement

suite 303
one Spadina Crescent
Toronto Ontario
M5S 2J5

telephone (416) 928-7156

To demonstrate that governments sincerely committed to the process of bringing environmental decisions out of the back rooms and into the fresh air can produce effective and practical legislation on this subject, CELA's researchers and lawyers prepared their own draft legislation. This bill, which may become a model for legislation in Ontario and other Canadian Provinces, has received praise from environmentalists, lawyers and law professors across Canada.

CELA's lawyers have been active in litigation to protect the Elora Gorge, one of Canada's most scenic areas. They have also assisted ratepayers' groups by appearing on their behalf before the Environmental Hearing Board and before the Ontario Municipal Board.

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- Pitman article
- Law Gazette review
- EIA Summary sheet.