CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

October 12, 2000

Mr. Bruce Lourie
Programme Officer
Laidlaw Foundation
365 Bloor St. E., Ste. 2000
Toronto, ON
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Dear Bruce:

Re: A Proposal by the CEN Toxics Caucus for Capacity Building

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to submit the following proposal for $17,250.00. As a follow-up to our draft letter on Friday October 6th, please find attached a proposal on behalf of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) Toxics Caucus towards capacity building for the Caucus. Below is a brief description of the Toxics Caucus and its activities on toxic substances. The proposed activities will be undertaken between January, 2001-January, 2001. In anticipation of a federal election, the proposed timeframe is timely as the following activities are priority for Caucus involvement: implementation of the new *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), participate in the final stages of negotiating a global treaty on persistent organic pollutants (POPs); and the federal review of the *Pesticides Control Products Act* (PCPA).

The Toxics Caucus, with over 125 member organizations, is one of 12 caucuses or working groups coordinated by the CEN. Participation on the Toxics Caucus steering committee include World Wildlife Fund Canada, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Greenpeace, Canadian Labour Congress, Environmental Law Centre, Great Lakes United, Reach for Unbleached, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy and Société pour Vaincre la Pollution among others. The main focus of the Toxics Caucus is to ensure that effective legislation and policy reform activities are undertaken on issues that relate to the management of toxic substances in Canada.

The Toxics Caucus was established in the Spring of 1994, initially to coordinate activities around the five-year review of CEPA. However, its coordinating functions were utilized to address related federal initiatives such the *National Pollutants Release Inventory*, the *Towards Pollution Prevention: A Federal Strategy for Action*, the *Strategic Options Process*, assessment of substances under the Priority Substances List and the Canada-wide Standard Setting Process under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. The coordinating functions of the Toxics Caucus have expanded recently

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to address issues such as pesticides and hazardous waste. As noted above, current activities will focus on a number of initiatives including the implementation of the new CEPA, the federal review of the PCPA, and the international negotiations towards a global treaty on POPs.

The Toxics Caucus does not take positions on specific issues, rather its main task is to facilitate activities that ensure the view of the Canadian environmental community on relevant matters on toxic substances are articulated and presented to the federal government. Environment Canada has often viewed the Toxics Caucus as a conduit for expressing an environmental perspective on its various toxics management initiatives. In light of these activities, the support requested by the Toxics Caucus from the Laidlaw Foundation is aimed to ensure participation in these initiatives continue in a coordinated and timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have questions regarding the draft proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us at 416-960-2284. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Canadian Environmental Law Association

Paul Muldoon
Executive Director
Chair of the CEN Toxics Caucus

cc. Derek Stack, CEN