

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

COPY

October 6, 2000

Mr. Bruce Lourie
Programme Officer
Laidlaw Foundation
365 Bloor St. E., Ste. 2000
Toronto, ON
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FAX: 416-975-1428

Dear Bruce:

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

As a follow-up to our discussion on Monday, please consider a request for $17,250.00 on behalf of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) Toxics Caucus towards capacity building for the Caucus. Below is a general description of the history and activities of the Toxics Caucus. Please refer to Appendix A for a detail description of this draft proposal.

The Toxics Caucus is one of 12 caucuses or working groups coordinated by the CEN. The Caucus currently includes over 125 organizations from across Canada. The steering committee includes participation from 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 Societé 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.

The Toxics Caucus was established in the Spring of 1994, initially to coordinate activities around the five-year review of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA). However, the effectiveness of its coordinating functions were recognized and the Caucus activities was expanded to address related 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. Coordination on these issues continue to date, and since June 2000, the Toxics Caucus has further expanded its focus to include pesticide and hazardous waste. Other issues of importance to the Caucus include activities to implement the new CEPA, the overhaul of the *Pesticide Control Product Act* (PCPA) by the federal

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government, and the international negotiations towards a global treaty on persistent organic pollutants.

The Toxics Caucus, as with other CEN caucuses, 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. The support we request from the Laidlaw Foundation is aimed to ensure these activities continue, in particular, on matters regarding the overhaul of the federal PCPA and the implementation activities on the new CEPA.

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