

**Laidlaw Foundation
Environment Programme**

Environmental Contaminants and Children's Health

2001 Grants Awarded:

Canadian Arctic Resources Committee

\$20,000

Future Work on POPs and Heavy Metals in the Canadian Arctic

This project is to ensure that the Global Convention on POPs is ratified and the obligations are implemented in a timely manner. A number of specific activities include a communications strategy, identification of new substances of concern in the Arctic and research into mercury.

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

\$8,400

Development of a Business Plan

The development of a business plan is intended to help CAPE outline its future activities, examine its resources and needs and to facilitate a quality search for funding.

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

\$25,000

Ontario's Environment Report

CIELAP's annual report is intended to increase public awareness of government policies, evaluating provincial initiatives and providing further analysis and recommendations on more and better steps the province could take to improve environmental protection and public health in Ontario.

Canadian Environmental Law Association

\$10,000

Childrens' Environmental Health Partnership – Development Plan

The Partnership has emerged in recognition of the need for greater collaboration among environmental and health groups to improve and enhance their respective and collective work. The ultimate objective is to build an on-line public face that will allow the partners to pursue further collaborative research, policy development, information resource integration, community learning initiatives, education programs and social marketing campaigns.

Green Communities Association

\$45,000

Pesticide Free Naturally! Phase II

Building on a successful campaign that began in 2000, this year Pesticide Free Naturally will directly reach a minimum of 7,500 homeowners in 15 Ontario communities, who will display pesticide-free lawn signs indicating their commitment to pesticide-free lawns and gardens. These signs will generate discussion and information-sharing among neighbours on pesticide risks and alternatives. Similar to the Blue Box effect, which made recycling an issue of individual pride, these signs will create a social pressure to reduce the use of pesticides and to mark one's own lawn as a pesticide-free zone. Increased awareness will lead to a long-term reduction in health effects from pesticide exposure.

Primary objectives include:

- building awareness among the general population of health and environmental impacts of pesticide use in homes and gardens;
- providing concerned citizens with the information they need to use non-toxic methods of pest control in the home, yard, and garden; and
- encouraging neighbourhood discussion about pesticide use and alternatives and making reducing pesticide use a matter of individual and neighbourhood pride.

The Lung Association

\$50,000

C.A.N. DO- The Movement for Clean Air Now

The purpose of this project is to launch a major public engagement campaign called C.A.N DO to raise awareness and generate action on indoor air quality. The Lung Association is concerned that the issue of indoor air quality is receiving little attention. A social marketing campaign is proposed that will encourage individuals to improve their indoor air quality by providing a variety of guides and brochures to create a healthy indoor air environment.

Ontario Medical Association

\$100,000

Environmental Health Project

This project is a three year strategic partnership between the Laidlaw Foundation and the OMA to provide capacity for additional staff and support resources which will enable the OMA to produce additional position statements on environmental contaminants which damage human health.

Pollution Probe

\$7,300

Safe Water Coalition – Innovations Fund

This project is to expand the existing website in order to provide a critical information link for the public and environmental groups concerned about the protection of Ontario's water.

Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation

\$2,500

Ontario Nature Trust Alliance - "Youth Scholarship Program" – Innovations Fund

The Youth Scholarship Program will allow young persons who have a demonstrated interest in land stewardship to attend the Ontario Nature Trust Alliance 2001 Gathering. This series of seminars and workshops will deliver education and training to individuals who are the present and future leaders of the land trust movement.

Sierra Legal Defence Fund

\$20,000

Clearing the Air: Reducing Air Pollution in the Great Lakes Basin

SLDF will undertake a large-scale and comprehensive program approach to reducing air pollution in the Great Lakes Basin. The approach will be based on the Fund's past experience and expertise in science, law, communications and education. Targets include toxic emissions from industry and non-point source pollution. The overall objective is to see significant improvements in Canadian pollution standards and environmental compliance.

Young Environmental Professionals

\$9,000

Capacity Building – Innovations Fund

This project is one of capacity building. YEP provides a business and opportunity forum for individuals (between the ages of 24 to 40) to share ideas, learn about environmental issues and explore career opportunities. Capacity building will include hiring a part-time co-ordinator, coordinating a mentor/speakers series, enhancing community outreach, and managing a listserv.

2000 Grants Awarded:**Canadian Environmental Defence Fund**

\$60,000

The Right to Know: Toxic Substances in Food

Through this project the CEDF wants to facilitate increased transparency and accountability by revealing the existence of toxics in food, poor government testing and enforcement and industry's contribution to the contamination of our food.

Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network

\$10,000

Organizational Development - Innovations Fund

The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) is a not-for-profit group of foundations and other funding organizations that give environmental grants in Canada. CEGN's mission is to expand the scope and effectiveness of grantmaking in support of the Canadian environment. CEGN works to develop an effective network of environmental grantmakers in Canada by facilitating information-sharing, collaboration, training and professional development, research, and communications.

CEGN's goals are:

- To increase networking and collaboration among environmental grantmakers in Canada, and between grantmakers and grantseekers;
- To contribute to a better understanding of the context of environmental grantmaking in Canada;
- To promote best practices in environmental grantmaking, and provide opportunities for environmental grantmakers in Canada to develop their grantmaking skills;
- To serve as a voice for environmental grantmaking in Canada;
- To promote and increase environmental giving in Canada.

In 2000, with the support of the Laidlaw Foundation, CEGN launched a process of organizational development to provide increased and more effective member services, and to contribute to the capacity building of environmental funders in Canada. This process included establishing an office in October and hiring a part-time staff person. Since that time, CEGN has held two members' meetings -- November 2000 in Toronto and May 2001 in Vancouver. These meetings provided opportunities for information-sharing and professional development on such issues as collaboration, environmental capacity, advocacy, and trade and the environment. In addition, CEGN's board engaged in a process of strategic planning to confirm the organization's

mission, goals and priorities for 2001. In February 2001, CEGN was incorporated federally as a not-for-profit organization.

Planned activities for 2001 include creation of a website and other communications vehicles, undertaking research and developing a database on Canadian environmental grantmaking, and offering further opportunities to grantmakers for networking, collaboration and professional development.

Canadian Environmental Law Association

\$10,000

Canadian Environment Network Toxics Caucus for Capacity Building

The grant received from the Laidlaw Foundation has enabled the Toxics Caucus to undertake the coordination required to identify and secure additional funding on relevant and upcoming initiatives related to the management of toxic substances in Canada.

In the past few months, the Caucus has become active on initiatives that furthers the implementation of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), 1999*. The Toxics Caucus was active on the review of CEPA since it commenced in 1994. For example, coordination activities are required on the following:

- The Domestic Substances List (DSL) Technical Advisory Committee, which is focused on developing a proposed framework to screen the 23,000 substances in use in Canada by the end of 2001;
- The Environmental Leaders Focus Group, which is developing a voluntary program aimed as a follow-up to the recently completed program *Accelerated Reduction/Elimination of Toxic Substances* (a voluntary program in which industrial companies reported its releases of some 117 targetted substances including some persistent toxic substances);
- The recently initiated review of the *Export and Import of Hazardous Waste Regulation*, a process that is expected to conclude in the Fall of 2002; and amendments to the *PCB Export and Import Regulations*, and
- The NGOs participation in the international negotiations to develop a treaty on persistent organic pollutants. On May 23, 2001 the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)* was signed by over 115 countries. The goal of this Convention is the elimination of POPs such as DDT, PCBs and dioxins and furans. The Convention includes effective language to operationalize the precautionary principle.

Further, the caucus has continued its participation in several ongoing initiatives such as the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's Canada-wide Standard Setting consultation for dioxins and furans and mercury; and the consultations to improve the *National Pollutants Release Inventory*.

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

\$5,313

Canada-Ontario Agreement on the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem – Innovations Fund

For the development of a Statement of Principles for a renewed Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) and specific communication activities. These efforts would be intended to raise the public profile of the COA renewal process and outline a benchmark against which the new Agreement being negotiates by the parties could be measured.

Canadian Nature Federation

\$9,000

Green Budget Coalition – Innovations Fund

This coalition of 15 major environmental and conservation groups will be developing and promoting a staged multi-year reinvestment in Canada's environment. Activities include; meeting with key government officials, educating members, and continuing the dialogue on environmental reforms leading up to the 2001 federal budget.

Green Communities Association

\$26,000

Pesticide Free Naturally!

This project is a multi-community campaign to reduce the cosmetic use of pesticides in urban areas.

Green Thumb, Growing Things - Innovations Fund

\$5,000

Environmental education/recreation program primarily for children aged 6-12. Drawn from four local schools, the program takes place at the unique Riverdale Farm setting in downtown Toronto. Children come after school one day per week from March through June and again in September and October. During the summer months a Saturday session is held, and includes more age groups eg younger and older children plus adults, who may participate in specialized workshops.

The focus is on plant study, both wild and cultivated, and an exploration of the Don River Table Lands ecosystem. Through supplementary programs such as FrogWatch, links are made between environmental toxins and the health of wild plants and animals. The food cultivation aspect of the program gives a grounding in organic methodology such as composting, vermicomposting, mulching, companion planting etc.

Our program also functions as a social and cross-cultural mechanism for assisting at-risk children to connect with nature and one another in a small group setting. Staff and volunteer - to - child ratio is kept high, and the program is well accessed by ESL and special needs children.

Inverhuron and District Ratepayers Association

\$10,000

Judicial Review in the Federal Court Trial Division of a recent decision by Christine Stewart – Innovations Fund

The Inverhuron and District Ratepayers Association is a volunteer community group challenging the Minister of the Environment and the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, the Atomic Energy Control board and Ontario Power Generation in the Federal Court of Canada. The court challenge is to subject the Bruce Nuclear Power Development and proposal to dry storage containers for used nuclear fuel to a full assessment of environmental health, economic and social effects.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

\$2,500

Improve Development of Organic Agriculture in Ontario

This project is designed to increase the production, quality and distribution of certified organic foods in Ontario, with a focus on southwestern Ontario.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

\$28,000

Growing Organic Agriculture in Southwestern Ontario

Partners in this project include; OntarBio Organic Farmers Cooperative, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), The Schad Foundation, and The Laidlaw Foundation.

The objectives of this project are:

1. to provide technical support to farmers interested in making the transition to organic farming.
2. to help existing organic farmers improve the quality of the crops that they grow and the livestock that they raise.

This project is designed to increase the production, quality and distribution of certified organic foods in Ontario, with a focus on Southwestern Ontario. Organic foods currently comprise only 1-2% of the market and demand far outstrips supply. Two of the major constraints to expansion of certified organic production and distribution are: a) the absence of technical assistance for growers; b) the absence of services to broker linkages between existing consumer demand and organic food suppliers. This project addresses the first constraint by setting up a range of services to assist new and existing organic growers in SW Ontario by providing them with technical support that will help to increase supply and quality of organic food in Southwestern Ontario.

Network for Environmental Risk Assessment and Management (NERAM) \$20,000 *Precautionary Principle Workshop*

The workshop held on February 19-20, 2001 at Ryerson Polytechnic University was unique and progressive in ensuring a balanced multi-stakeholder forum, with representation from industry, government, consulting/academic and environmental and health advocacy groups to exchange views and perspectives on risk assessment, risk management, and the relationship between precautionary principle and existing frameworks for risk management. Many participants noted that the opportunity to understand the views of various stakeholders on these issues was one of the biggest strengths of the workshop.

The structure of the workshop, in which discussion on the precautionary principle was deferred until two multistakeholder group decision-making exercises were completed, was intended to address the weaknesses of previous workshops which have examined precautionary principle directly, but resulted in discussions too broad to guide the development or implementation of the principle. While some participants applauded the effort and intent behind the workshop format, many others were frustrated by this model, as they were prepared to discuss precautionary principle from the outset and noted that the rationale behind the workshop format was not clearly explained.

The Canadian Standards Association Q850 Risk Management Decision Framework as detailed in the NERAM Primer was used as a basis to structure the case studies and to describe the current risk management approach in Canada and the U.S. It was the intent of the second day of the workshop to discuss where the Precautionary Principle was used in the risk assessment process and more generally in the Q850 decision-making framework. Several participants were critical of the framework and the idea of integrating the precautionary principle with the existing risk management framework. There was some effort in the breakout discussions towards adapting the framework to recognize that risk assessment is a useful, but not an exclusive input into risk management decisions, and to emphasize the role of public participation and consideration of public values early in the decision-making process.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians \$35,000
Peer Presenter Program

This education program is designed to educate Family Physicians on the effects of human health of environmental contaminants commonly encountered in air, food, water, etc. Peer presenters will be selected and trained to educate their fellow physicians.

Pollution Probe \$10,000

Ontario Clean Air Alliance "Ontario's Dirty Secret" – Innovations Fund

Project for the reprinting and distribution of 300,000 copies of "Ontario's Dirty Secret: Five Coal Plants add up to a big smog problem" pamphlet.

Pollution Probe \$40,000

Ontario Clean Air Alliance

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is a coalition of health, environmental and consumer organizations, faith communities, municipalities, utilities, unions and individuals working for cleaner air through strict emission limits and a phase-out of coal in the electricity sector. Our 78 partner organizations represent over 6 million Ontarians.

On March 26, 2001 we achieved our greatest victory to-date when Ontario's Environment Minister, Elizabeth Witmer, announced that coal-burning at the Lakeview Generating Station, in Mississauga, will cease in the spring of 2005. In addition, on May 15th, Ontario Power Generation promised to not operate Lakeview on smog alert days during the summer of 2001.

It is now one down and four to go. Our next target is the Nanticoke Generating Station on Lake Erie. Nanticoke is the largest coal-fired power plant in all of North America and Canada's #1 source of toxic air pollution.

On May 14th the Ontario Clean Air Alliance released a report which shows that Nanticoke can be converted to cleaner-burning natural gas for a cost of only \$2.99 per month for the typical residential electricity ratepayer.

This summer we will be distributing, with the help of our member and partner organizations, 200,000 copies of our new pamphlet, "The Nanticoke Generating Station is the #1 polluter in Canada: And it's affecting our children's health".

Pollution Probe \$100,000

Comprehensive Air Programme

This project is to develop a strategic partnership for a Comprehensive Air Programme. This is for both capacity building and supporting specific projects. It includes elements of public education, consultation with government and the corporate sector and advocacy.

Quinte Community Learning \$30,000

The Greater Quinte Region Community Shared Agriculture Projects

The Community Shared Agriculture Projects will establish CSA membership consisting of local growers/producers and consumers. The project will oversee the development of the planning stages, the creation of core groups to direct each CSA, the planting, the harvest and the distribution of produce.

Sierra Club of Canada Foundation

\$6,000

The OntAIRio Campaign "Empire State Project" - Innovations Fund

The project presented New Yorkers with the information that will result in their insisting that Ontario match the New York standard of air quality. This will be important in producing a worthy Canada-US smog reduction agreement.

South Riverdale Community Health Centre

\$7,500

Reproductive Chemical Hazards and Pre-Natal Health – A Resource for Pre-Natal Educators and Pregnant Women – Innovations Fund

The aim of the *Reproductive Hazards and Pre-Natal Health: A Resource for Pre-Natal Educators* project was to take information from the current scientific literature outlining the reproductive risks that several substances present and make that information accessible to prenatal educators and pregnant woman/the general public. A series of eight detailed fact sheets have been produced for prenatal educator and eight shorter fact sheets for pregnant women/the general public ('clients') on the following topics: *introduction to reproductive hazards and the environment, lead, electric and magnetic fields, pesticides, asbestos, paints and solvents, cleaning products and plastics*. The fact sheets provide information on each of the substances, the health and reproductive risks associated with these substances, how people can minimize their exposures and also where they can get more information.

All of the educator and client fact sheets have been developed and are currently in a 'semi-final' draft format. The draft fact sheets have been reviewed by professionals working in different aspects of environmental health or children's health, and by prenatal health educators. We are currently pilot-testing the draft fact sheets with participants in prenatal groups. The final version of the fact sheets will be determined by the input received from the various reviewers. It is estimated that the fact sheets will be ready for distribution by the end of summer 2001.

Sustainability Network

\$30,000

The Sustainability Network focuses on training and management assistance as a way of developing effective leaders and efficient organizations. Our goal is to build capacity and create a more sustained and focused environmental movement in Ontario. Training workshops, breakfast forums, bursaries and online fundraising training have been developed to build the capacity of environmental non-profit organizations.

Toronto Environmental Alliance

\$20,000

Pesticide Free Daycares and Communities Programme Year 2

This is a two-year project aimed at reducing children's exposure to pesticides.

Since 2000, TEA has partnered with the Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care, Toronto Public Health, York University, Children's Circle Daycare Centre and PCO-Orkin to develop a program that will

- Improve the effectiveness of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs in a daycare setting;
- Educate daycare staff and parents about IPM, and;
- Promote IPM to daycares in Toronto and across Ontario.

In 2001, TEA has:

- Formed a partnership with PCO-Orkin (a pest control company) and Children's Circle Child Care Centre (175 Hampton Ave, Toronto) to develop and pilot IPM educational materials;
- Surveyed 398 child care centres to measure current pesticide practices and knowledge of IPM;
- Partnered with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Canadian Auto Workers to create 30,000 educational posters for distribution in child care centres and public spaces;
- Made a presentation on the project to the Ontario Structural Pest Management Association annual meeting in Niagara Falls, ON

Uxbridge Conservation Association

\$15,000

Sludgewatch

This project is to support an Ontario based campaign to protect agricultural soils and groundwater from contamination from sewage and septage disposal on farmland. Activities include; reviewing regulatory adequacy, fostering community sludge watch organizations, developing toxicological background information, participating in the Walkerton Inquiry and developing standards for environmentally sound nutrient management plans for organic growers.

World Wildlife Fund

\$45,000

Building Capacity for Pesticide Reduction 2000-2001

With a priority on gaining strong environmental and health protection amendments to the federal *Pest Control Products Act*, WWF sought funding from the Laidlaw Foundation to support capacity-building to achieve pesticide reduction goals. It takes time to develop capacity – to instill confidence in people who are hesitant about meeting politicians, to coach people who are very nervous about speaking in public, to train people in the most effective ways to approach the media with a story, and so on. But that investment of time pays off – not only for one campaign, but for long-term conservation goals.

This past year, WWF's capacity-building efforts have been focused on several critical constituencies including existing local groups, women, (organic) landscapers, sympathetic farmers, and sympathetic doctors. We have worked in different ways to support the specific needs of each of these groups. In addition, we have made initial contact with various other constituencies to determine their specific issues and needs.

The result has been worth the effort – each of these groups is now more engaged, and more willing and capable of participating effectively in actions which will reduce pesticides.

The support of the Laidlaw Foundation enabled WWF Canada to further our work towards the following goals:

- Build public awareness of the necessity of pesticide reform, and to highlight practical alternatives.
- Support for volunteers and community-based organizations doing pesticide-reduction work, with a view to helping these organizations become more effective.
- Increase public awareness of the need for significant reforms to upcoming revisions of the Pest Control Products Act.
- Establish ongoing relationships with farmers and politicians involved in discussions about reforming the Pest Control Products Act.
- Engage health activists, medical professional and parents of young children in public education and lobbying around pesticide issues.
- Develop a strategy for communicating effectively with the general public on issues related to pesticide use.

York University

\$15,000

York Centre for Applied Sustainability - "GTA Quest: Community Dialogues toward creating a Sustainable Region"

The objective of this project is to engage stakeholders in the GTA in discussion about defining and sharing their visions of a sustainable future, how this vision could be implemented and to help connect citizens with other in the GTA who are taking action toward similar sustainable futures.

York University

\$10,000

York Centre for Applied Sustainability – "The Sustainability Reporting Program"

The Sustainability Reporting Program (SRP) produces The Canadian Sustainability Report, an electronic report on issues and trends that are shaping our future. Our web-based reporting system tracks how we are doing as a country in fulfilling human needs and wants, and in maintaining a healthy environment and society.

An independent, non-partisan organization, the SRP draws from the best available sources of environmental, economic and social information. The Program provides a summary of key information and current thinking. It includes links to a range of sustainable development initiatives across sectors. While the report focuses on the national scene, it includes global issues that affect Canada, and regional or local issues of national significance.

The reporting system is becoming a valuable tool for decision-makers in government, business and industry, and community organizations. It will also help all Canadians be better informed about how their lifestyle decisions move us toward or away from a more sustainable future.

1999 Grants Awarded:

Brock Land Stewards \$20,000

Waste as Product: Spreading Sludge on Agricultural Land in Ontario

To support Brock Land Steward's activities for 1999. Activities involve public education, community organizing, and providing legal challenges against waste-based agricultural practices that are likely to contaminate soil or water or cause health or environmental risks.

Canadian Environmental Defence Fund \$55,000

Increasing Citizen Awareness to Reduce Toxic Chemical Releases

To support a community outreach and education project aimed at reducing toxic chemical pollution in communities across Canada. PollutionWatch.org is a unique Internet service that allows Canadians to easily access important information about local polluters. By simply entering a postal code, visitors to the site can find out who is polluting in their community, the type and quantity of pollution being released and the potential health risks. Visitors can also compare their province, neighbourhood or a facility with others across the country, and send a fax straight to facilities of concern or to the federal minister of the environment.

Canadian Environmental Law Association \$40,000

Environmental Standard Setting to Protect Children's Health II

The purpose of this project is to distribute the information and recommendations of the *Children's Health and Environmental Standard Setting Project*. The information will be distributed through journal articles, popular magazines, and on the Web to develop environmental standard-setting guides.

Canadian Nature Federation \$5,000

CNF's Green Budget Initiative - Innovations Fund

To support Canadian Nature Federation's work to convince the federal government to "green" its upcoming budget. This work involves educating the necessary actors to ensure that the right initiatives are present in the upcoming federal budget.

Greenest City \$30,000

Active & Safe Routes to School: Social Marketing

ASRTS is an elegant and simple solution to address problems of local air pollution; traffic related injuries among young children; children's health due to a general lack of physical activity; and urban isolation. ASRTS promotes safety, physical activity and environmentally sustainable transportation to and from school. Program components include: Neighbourhood Walkabout (school site traffic safety audit), implementation of safe walking strategies (Walking School Bus, Walking Wednesdays, Walk a Block and Walking Buddies), International Walk to School Day, No Idling at School (anti-idling campaign) and classroom resources. ASRTS started in 1996 as a pilot project in three Toronto schools. It has grown steadily since that time to encompass the Province of Ontario. To date, Greenest City and its partners have worked with over 100 schools to implement safe walking programs.

ASRTS gains since the program's inception indicate that there is considerable receptivity to the notion that walking to school is a normal, healthy, community-building activity. Parents and educators have responded enthusiastically to this activity, nonetheless ASRTS still faces many challenges related to parental attitudes, habitual behaviour patterns and concerns about children's safety when they walk to school. A recent Environics study found that 68% of Canadian children have a walk to school of 30 minutes or less, but only 36% walk regularly.

With support from the Laidlaw Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Greenest City undertook a Community Based Social Marketing study, using Informa Market Research Inc, to provide insights into the following common barriers:

1. Reactions among educators i.e. principals and representatives of parent-teacher associations to the idea of walking to school and, in particular, the walking school bus component.
2. Identify perceived strengths and weaknesses of the program
3. Locate potential practical and attitudinal barriers to participation
4. Provide opportunities that could overcome current objections to the program
5. Determine the types of support required to launch the program i.e. structural and communication elements
6. Identify methods of establishing and strengthening the network of parents and educators who subscribe to this program
7. Provide assistance in measuring the impact of the program
8. Assist in developing a community-based social marketing program

The primary methods of gathering information were questionnaires faxed to over 65 schools and focus groups; semi-structured telephone interviews were also used to represent a small number of administrators that were unable to attend the sessions. The fieldwork was conducted between November 2000 and March 2001. The final report from this work will be available in June 2001. The Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations sections will be available on our Web site at that time.

Learning for a Sustainable Future

\$20,000

Summer Institutes for Educators and Their Community Sustainability Partners

On November 24-25, 2000 "Pathways to Rural Sustainability", was held in Carleton Place, Ontario. This was one of 10 conferences or "Institutes" being presented across Ontario by Learning for a Sustainable Future - Ontario (LSFO) in 2000-2002. This conference brought a particularly rural perspective and was made possible through the support of the Laidlaw Foundation, Canada's Ministry of Agriculture (Rural Secretariat), and the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition. The conference brought together approximately 85 people from communities in six counties. There was representation from teachers, students, health care professionals, municipal leaders, small business owners, farmers, academics, community organizations, and environmental organizations.

The goal of the Institute was:

- 1) To engage community leaders from education, municipal government, business, health, non-profits and the community at large in developing healthy, sustainable rural communities;
- 2) To educate community leaders in Renfrew, Lanark, Hasting, Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville Counties about the real requirements and opportunities for rural sustainability;

- 3) To bring people involved in developing healthy, sustainable communities together to learn from each other;
- 4) To introduce sustainability ideas from other rural areas to Eastern Ontario;
- 5) To enhance opportunities for building on ideas and existing initiatives towards healthy economies and communities;
- 6) To provide tools and resources towards these goals;
- 7) To develop and commit to action plans stimulated through the conference.

Guest speakers were invited to cover a range of topics: energy, agriculture, climate change, waste diversion, organic farming, community economic development, education, governance, health, green economics and our ecological footprint. The speakers helped participants to understand what already exists and what is possible. This created the framework for discussions regarding commitments that participants were willing to make "At Home", "At Work", "At School" and "In Our Community". A total of \$5,500 of the Institute budget has been allocated to support the implementation of community action projects generated through the Institute. Projects include: First Class Across Canada – a climate change action program for elementary students and their parents; a vehicle idling reduction program for schools, community and municipalities; a project to map and promote local food production and consumption; a series of water and water quality projects developed and delivered with schools which include workshops, information sharing and an art work display ; pesticide workshops; students/community group sewing bags from recycled materials to be filled with donated school supplies for children in Bosnia.

Pollution Probe \$30,000

Our Children's Food

To support the creation of a comprehensive report that focuses on the risks that food may have on children's health. The report will survey the current "food safety" system in Canada compared to international practices. It will identify areas of responsibility, key players, and recommend actions for improving the effectiveness of the current food safety system.

Quinte Community Learning \$5,000

The Greater Quinte Region Community Shared Agriculture Project

The *Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) Project* will establish CSA membership consisting of local growers/producers and consumers. The project will oversee the development of the planning stages, the creation of core groups to direct each CSA, the planting, the harvest and the distribution of produce.

Sierra Club of Canada Foundation \$4,000

OntAIRio Campaign – Innovations Fund

This specific project will provide logistical support for David Suzuki to speak to communities in southwestern Ontario about the links between health and air quality.

Sustainability Network \$30,000

The Sustainability Network focuses on training and management assistance as a way of developing effective leaders and efficient organizations. Our goal is to build capacity and create a more sustained and focused environmental movement in Ontario. Training workshops, breakfast forums, bursaries and online fundraising training have been developed to build the capacity of environmental non-profit organizations.

University of Alberta

\$4,500

EcoSummit '99 – Innovations Fund

The *EcoSummit '99* is a forum for scientists, physicians and other experts to come to Ottawa to discuss with Members of Parliament current issues in health and the environment and to foster on-going dialogue on these important issues.

University of Alberta

\$12,500

EcoSummit 2000

The purpose of the *EcoSummit* is to provide an opportunity for some of Canada's foremost scientists and experts to communicate to parliamentarians current information on selected Canadian environmental problems and their implications for human health. *EcoSummit 2000* will highlight the timely and growing problems surrounding our water management in Canada, with a focus specifically on water-borne toxins.

University of Waterloo

Alternatives Journal, Faculty of Environmental Studies

\$10,000

Alternatives: Health and Environment Issue Summer 1999

This special issue focussed on the challenges and opportunities related to health issues and the environment. Feature articles provided the latest research and credible commentary from leading experts on these health and environment issues. Our feature section opened with Ted Schrecker, currently an associate with the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics, and Law, who wrote "Money Matters" about the disastrous effects of economic disparity on human health and the environment. Sandra Schwartz and Graham W. Chance, from the Canadian Institute for Child Health, proposed in "Children First" that environmental contaminant protection policy needs to be rewritten to reflect the new information on children's environmental health. In "Detective Work," Donald C. Cole, Ross Upshur & Brian Gibson provided some much-needed insight the challenges of identifying and measuring environmental contaminants as direct contributors to ill health.

Reports that complemented the above articles were also included:

... "Proving the Environment-Health Link in Court" by Theresa McClenaghan from the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

... "Eleven Steps to Improve the Indoor Environment for Children" by Jill McDowell from Pollution Probe.

... "Poor Environment, Poor Health" and "Plump Eyelashes or Proper Education" by Elena Johnson, graduate from the Environment and Resource Studies Programme at the University of Waterloo.

Alternatives is grateful for the support of \$10,000 from the Laidlaw Foundation that helped finance the production and distribution of this special issue. The issue included a one-page article describing Laidlaw's approach to the environment which provided a foundation perspective to the issues of children, toxics, and the public interest.

World Wildlife Fund Canada \$45,000

Building Capacity for Pesticide Reduction: Outreach, Public Communications and Critical Legislative Reform

This programme aims to increase public awareness of pesticide issues and to highlight the fact that alternatives to pesticides are feasible; to increase World Wildlife Fund Canada's support to the existing network of pesticide reduction groups; and to engage the public in a critical upcoming reform of the Pest Control Products Acts.

York University York Centre for Applied Sustainability \$30,000

The Sustainability Reporting Programme

The *Sustainability Reporting Programme* will deliver information for decision-making based on principles of sustainability in a form that will be useful to Canadian government policy makers, business, NGO's, community groups, educators, and people making choices in their personal lives. The report will be produced on the Web and later a print report will be issued annually.

1998 Grants Awarded:

Brock Land Stewards \$5,000

Land Application of Paper Sludge: A Community Assessment

To support a rural citizens' action group (Simcoe County/York-Durham Region) that is challenging the renewal of a certificate of approval by companies that are dumping paper sludge in fields and roads. The group intends to use the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights to require the companies to prove that these industrial wastes do not contaminate ground water, soil, crops, and livestock.

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment \$17,500

Health Protection Branch Legislative Review

To sponsor CAPE's participation in the Legislative Review. This will involve consultations, submissions, expert reports, public information, and advocacy on the issues and seeing their implementation into policy.

Canadian Environmental Defence Fund \$4,000

Right-to-Know

Right-to-Know is based on the premise that citizens should have the opportunity to easily access information that directly or indirectly affects them. This grant will be used to explore the right-to-know issue, build partnerships, and develop a multiyear project proposal.

**Canadian Environmental Law Association and
the Ontario College of Family Physicians**

\$69,785

Environmental Standard Setting to Protect Children's Health

To support a project aimed at providing an understanding of the environmental threats to children (such as why children's health is at particular risk from environmental contamination, and which environmental contaminants are of concern); assessing whether current standards are adequate to protect children and if not, which standards are of concern; and developing strategies and tactics for protecting children.

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law & Policy

\$50,000

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA)

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA) is a 45-member multisectoral coalition working to educate the public about the health and environmental implications of electricity deregulation in Ontario. The OCAA's goal is to work with the public to ensure implementation of appropriate air pollution limits that will improve air quality in a deregulated electricity market.

Citizens Environment Watch

\$43,067

Grassroots Monitoring of Environmental Quality

Citizens' Environment Watch (CEW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, monitoring, and the identification of environmental quality issues in Ontario communities. With the launch of our youth-directed monitoring project we will be travelling to schools and youth groups in the Toronto, Niagara-Welland and Peterborough-Kawartha areas this fall to facilitate water and air quality monitoring projects which will connect youth with the natural environment, the science of monitoring and the larger community. Bioindicators of water quality (benthic invertebrates) and air quality (lichens) and ground level ozone as measured by an electronic monitoring device will be the target foci of training and monitoring events. Students will collect environmental data, use the internet and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to store and manipulate data, communicate their findings to community and interested agencies, and address questions of behavior change and pollution reduction initiatives. Our collaborative partners include Environment Canada (Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network), York University Centre for Applied Sustainability, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and many devoted education faculty and community leaders throughout Ontario.

Clean Air Strategy Group

\$50,000

Acid Rain, Associated Air Pollution and Children's Health: Phase II

To provide funding for co-ordination of a campaign developed by the Clean Air Strategy Group and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). A major economic analysis project has been proposed that will analyse the costs of air pollution to the health care system. The OMA will evaluate Section 115 of the U.S. Clean Air Act and its relation to Canadian intervention.

Pollution Probe	\$50,000
<i>Healthy Schools—Healthy Children: Improving the Indoor Environment</i>	
To support Phase I of a project that focuses on assessing the state of the indoor environment in Ontario schools and on developing an action plan that will help schools identify, prevent, and remediate indoor environment problems.	
South Riverdale Community Health Centre	\$2,500
<i>Hidden Household Hazards</i>	
Hidden Household Hazards will target 1,000 households and will aim to develop innovative strategies to encourage safe disposal of and up to 80% reduction in the use of toxic household hazardous waste. Funding is provided to cover printing and distribution of a publication, <i>Hidden Exposures: A Practical Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment for You and Your Children</i> , for distribution to the target households.	
Sustainability Network	\$30,000
The Sustainability Network focuses on training and management assistance as a way of developing effective leaders and efficient organizations. Our goal is to build capacity and create a more sustained and focused environmental movement in Ontario. Training workshops, breakfast forums, bursaries and online fundraising training have been developed to build the capacity of environmental non-profit organizations.	
TNS – Toronto Forum	\$5,000
<i>Establish the TNS Forum in Toronto</i>	
<i>TNS-Toronto Forum</i> is a diverse group of stakeholders that are interested in developing sustainable organizations by promoting The Natural Step principles in their businesses and their daily lives.	
Toronto Environmental Alliance	\$40,000
<i>Pesticide-Free Daycare Programme</i>	
To fund a programme that focuses on developing new, sustainable pest control practices, targeting primarily organophosphates for indoor use and herbicides for outdoor use, and replacing them with nontoxic but effective alternatives through daycare centres as a focal point. During the first year of the project, public daycare centres will be chosen to pilot a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the indoor and outdoor use of toxic pesticides.	
York Centre for Applied Sustainability, York University	\$10,000
<i>The State of Canada Report</i>	
To fund the production of <i>The State of Canada Report</i> , Canada's first national report on sustainability trends, on the World Wide Web. The <i>Report</i> will provide clear and reliable signals on sustainability issues by collecting high-quality information from existing reports on environmental, economic, and social issues to produce a concise information package.	