



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

February 6, 2006

Brenda Lucas
Programme Manager,
Fresh Water Resources Protection
The Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation
11 Church Street, Suite 400
Toronto Ontario
M5E 1W1

Dear Brenda,

**Water Policy Fellowship Proposal
from Lara Yacob with the Canadian Environmental Law Association**

I am pleased to submit a proposal for a water policy fellowship for further work on the Great Lakes Charter Annex agreements with PhD student Lara Yacob. I was delighted when Lara approached the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) because her research into global integrated water resources management in large cities has a lot to offer to our work in the Great Lakes Basin. The work we propose could assist in the challenges ahead to achieve implementation of these historic Agreements. I have attached on a separate page a chronology of CELA involvement in these issues.

As a non-profit Legal Aid environmental clinic CELA staff tried during Annex negotiations to advocate for changes that would improve our tools in Ontario to meet future water challenges. Intra-basin transfers and return flow requirements in the final agreements are both improvements to historic practices in Ontario.

During the hearings on drafts of these Agreements and in other workshops, it became apparent that the Annex would raise serious issues for Ontario municipalities. Because there was not in depth involvement of Ontario municipalities in Annex development, there is not yet a good understanding of their impacts among the Municipal sector.

While both London and Toronto City Councils have opposed diversions out of the Great Lakes, they are not yet aware of how agreement provisions could impact their own water management, growth and development decisions. Our proposal not only seeks to identify those issues but also to suggest options to address them. This is important to the Annex success in Ontario so that we avoid the alarmist reactions experienced by U.S. municipalities that led to the last minute diversion exceptions in the Agreements.

We have chosen to study London, Ontario because the City already has replaced groundwater with intra-basin transfers by pipelines of surface waters from the Great Lakes. London is likely to require more water in the near future. In contrast, Toronto takes its water directly from Lake Ontario but is under development pressure from York Region to the north as well as from projected population growth within their boundaries.

As you are aware from all the support you have given to source protection, there is overlap between the Annex, source protection, water-taking and transfer regulations and the sustainable water and sewage and infrastructure reforms underway. It is crucial that we look at solutions that can integrate all of these efforts rather than further fragment water management. We think that this research could go a long way to achieving this as well as integrating options for Great Lakes surface, tributary and groundwater systems.

CELA is in a good position to disseminate this research to the water partners and networks we have established for our Great Lakes Annex work and for our source protection work. We will be making full use of the resources of the waterhole web site (<http://www.thewaterhole.ca/>) and the CELA web site (<http://www.cela.ca>). To assist us in this research we plan to involve water experts from London, Toronto and the Province of Ontario to advise us during this project.

We hope you will agree that this is a project deserving of your support. We believe it will assist Canadian annex participants to continue our Basin leadership and achieve progress by implementing in practice the provisions of the Annex. Thank you for the exciting opportunity to work in partnership with a student on our mutual goals.

Yours truly,
Canadian Environmental Law Association

Sarah Miller

Sarah Miller
Co-ordinator