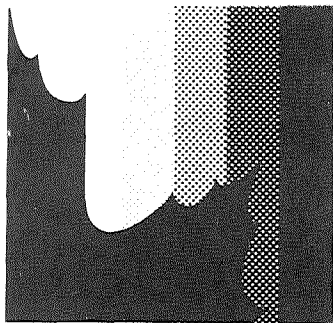




CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (CELA)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The Canadian Environmental Law Association is actively campaigning for legal reform which would open up the environmental decision-making process to citizen participation. For too long, decisions which affect the environment have been made behind closed doors, with no opportunity for a public airing of the issues.

Environmental law reform is needed at the provincial and federal levels. Progressive legislation has been passed in several U.S. jurisdictions and could easily be adapted for use here. The cornerstone of such legislation would be law that requires:

1. Social and environmental assessment studies as well as cost-benefit analyses before projects are approved.
2. Early notice of a proposed project must reach all those interested and likely to be affected.
3. Public access to all information about proposed projects.
4. An independent, powerful Environmental Review Board as a prerequisite to public confidence in the new procedures.
5. A citizen may require the Board to consider whether a project needs an environmental assessment or (if one has been done) whether it adequately explains expected environmental effects.
6. Public or private funds to be made available to objectors acting in the public interest.
7. The assessment document must contain all responsible contentions of interested or affected persons, outside experts, organizations and governmental agencies on the possible environmental and social impacts of a proposed project.
8. The originator of an undertaking should prepare and pay for its assessment.
9. The Review Board, working with the Ministry of the Environment staff, should assure that all stages of the assessment process follow proper procedures.
10. A firm timetable for implementing legislation in the public and private sectors.

CELA's brief "Principles for Environmental Impact Assessment" may be obtained from the address below at a cost of \$2.00.

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1 Spadina Crescent, Suite 303, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2J5

At the present time, the Ontario and federal governments are considering environmental assessment procedures. If you want meaningful environmental law, write your M.P.P. and demand that these procedures be included in any legislation adopted. Send us a copy.