



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

Great Lakes
Charter
Annex
FILE

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Dear Paula and David,

Annex Submissions from the Canadian Environmental Law Association

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) will be making several submissions to you today on the Great Lakes Annex documents. Later today you will receive our collective comments with the eleven other environmental ENGOs building on the record we have already provided you with of our concerns and suggestions. These include clause by clause comment on (a) the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, (b) the Great Lakes Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and Appendices and (c) answers to the additional questions you posed.

In addition to these three documents I am providing you with another three documents I have prepared. These include further comments from CELA addressing concerns that have arisen about the Annex in Ontario. I distributed this at a workshop we held on Friday, October 15, 2004 in Toronto to bring together divergent views to discuss perspectives. We also prepared and distributed a backgrounder for groups outside the Toronto area attending the hearings to give them our perspective on why the agreements are important for Ontarians. Finally I am including my prepared remarks to the Toronto hearing which I abandoned in favour of speaking to the mood of the room at the time.

Additionally I would like to add that at our Friday workshop groups attending agreed that the public could benefit from a ninety-day extension of the deadline. From our own experience as an Advisory Committee member we are aware of how complex and confusing these agreements are. The public could benefit from more time to answer their questions. Additional time would also offer opportunity to correct some of the erroneous assumptions that the press and public are making.

We understand that First Nations have requested ninety days for consultation with the Ontario government. CELA and others would like the opportunity to consider the outcome of that process.

I would like to thank you both for the opportunity to be part of the Advisory Committee. It is not often that we get to be part of such a huge effort to act to give primacy to ecosystem protection.

Yours truly,
Canadian Environmental Law Association

Sarah Miller

Sarah Miller
Water Researcher