



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY
L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DU DROIT ET DE LA POLITIQUE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Est. 1970

BRIEFING NOTE

GENERAL POLICY CONCERNS

CIELAP is concerned that the proposals being pursued by the Government of Ontario with respect to the environment will seriously undermine the Ministry of Environment and Energy's ability to fulfil its mandate to protect the quality of Ontario's natural environment.

We are also concerned about Ontario's ability to meet intergovernmental environmental commitments such as those under the 1994 Canada-Ontario Agreement on the Great Lakes Ecosystem. We are also concerned that Ontario's actions will undermine Canada's international commitments under such treaties as the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

CIELAP is part of the Ontario Environmental Protection Working Group which is preparing a Statement of Concern from Environmental Organizations to be submitted to you.

To address these concerns CIELAP proposes the development of a policy framework to ensure the protection of the environment and health of present and future generations of Ontarians. The framework should be based on agreed on principles such as protecting the environment, public accountability, government responsibility and public access to decision-making.

This framework should also address the provision of detailed annual state of the environment reports to Ontarians and provide for the effective enforcement of Ontario's laws which protect the environment and the health and safety of its residents.

CIELAP would welcome the opportunity to work with the Minister to develop a policy framework to protect the quality of Ontario's natural environment in order to safeguard the ecosystem and human health.

Anne Mitchell
Executive Director
February 27 1997

CIELAP Shelf:
Mitchell, Anne; Canadian Institute for
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Briefing Notes on Hazardous Waste,
Biodiversity, Climate Change Issues, General

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BRIEFING NOTE

HAZARDOUS WASTE

CIELAP has provided background research and policy recommendations on solid and hazardous waste management to the Ontario government over the years. CIELAP focussed on hazardous waste management and disposal in its response to the government's Regulatory Review Discussion Document. Our response was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Energy in October 1996.

CIELAP remains concerned about the government's proposals relating to hazardous waste management in Ontario as outlined in the Regulatory Review Discussion Document. In particular, we are concerned that the de-regulation of the recycling of hazardous and liquid industrial waste may adversely affect the health and environment of present and future generations of Ontarians.

CIELAP is preparing a *State of the Environment Report on Hazardous Waste Management in Ontario* and would be pleased to submit a copy to the Minister and to meet with his officials, and other stakeholders, to discuss our findings and possible ways of addressing this issue more efficiently and effectively.

For further information on CIELAP's research in the area of hazardous waste, please contact Dr Mark Winfield, Director of Research.

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February 27 1997



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BRIEFING NOTE

BIODIVERSITY

"Biodiversity" is the variety of life on this planet, recognized at genetic, species and ecosystem levels. Studies demonstrate that Ontario's economy and quality of life rely upon biodiversity and its many benefits.

CIELAP conducts leading edge research on biodiversity law and policy across Canada. CIELAP has contributed to the development of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and prepared the comprehensive reports "Biodiversity Law and Policy in Canada" and "Legal and Policy Mechanisms Concerning Genetic Resources in Canada".

CIELAP could assist the MOEE in this area by providing policy analysis and research expertise to complement MOEE initiatives. We would be pleased to discuss this further with the appropriate staff.

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Executive Director
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BRIEFING NOTE

CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

CIELAP has carried out extensive research in the area of climate change over the past few years. This work culminated in September 1996, when CIELAP published *A CO₂ Strategy for Ontario: A Discussion Paper* on behalf of the Ontario CO₂ Collaborative. The sponsors of this initiative were the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, The Toronto Atmospheric Fund, Ontario Hydro, Environment Canada, The Ontario Natural Gas Association and the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation. The Report outlines the costs and benefits of one possible strategy to stabilize Ontario's CO₂ emissions at the 1990 level by the year 2000 and to reduce them by 20%, relative to the 1988 level, by 2005. CIELAP and the CO₂ Collaborative would welcome the opportunity to discuss this strategy more widely with the Ministry and other stakeholders.

In the absence of new government policies and/or programs, Canada will not fulfill its Framework Convention on Climate Change commitment to stabilize its greenhouse gas emissions at the 1990 level by 2000.

Ontario could play a leadership role on this issue by: 1) helping the Government of Canada develop a strategy to achieve our Rio commitment by 2000; and ii) implementing more aggressive policies and/or programs in Ontario.

Representatives from the Ontario CO₂ Collaborative would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Minister to discuss the Collaborative's proposed strategies and ways in which Ontario can show leadership in this area.

For further information on CIELAP's research in the area of energy and climate change, please contact Jack Gibbons, Senior Economic Advisor.

Anne Mitchell
Executive Director
February 27 1997



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CIELAP BACKGROUNDER

PROFILE

The Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) was established in 1970 in response to the continuing need for objective analysis in environmental law and policy.

Independent of both government and industry, CIELAP is a national, charitable, not-for-profit, research and education institute committed to reforming environmental law and public policy in Canada. CIELAP's charitable registration number is 0380584-59.

CIELAP is unique among environmental groups. The Institute's approach and philosophy combines in-depth research with consultation. CIELAP believes that for change to occur, all of the affected parties must be involved in meaningful discussion. To achieve this participation, the Institute promotes dialogue among governments, the private sector and non-government groups with the goal of reaching consensus.

The Institute co-sponsors the Resource Library for the Environment and the Law in association with the Canadian Environmental Law Association. With a collection including information on the law, regulatory reform and policy, legal precedents, scientific and technical information, government reports, general interest books and magazines, it is the largest environmental library open to the public in Ontario.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership in the development of environmental law and policy that promotes the public interest and the principles of sustainability, including the protection of the health and well-being of present and future generations, and of the natural environment.

GOAL

CIELAP strives to identify and analyze current and emerging law and policy issues that affect Canada. Through research, consultation and evaluation, these challenges are transformed into policy options. The conclusions are communicated to interested audiences in a clear and non-partisan manner.

PUBLICATIONS

The research conducted by the Institute is published and available to the public. The more than 50 books, reports and briefs have been used as educational tools in high schools and universities as well as information sources for lawyers and other interested individuals.

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