

Law Association

Law

Association

Ramsay Wright Building 25 Harbord Street Toronto 131 Ontario Phone 929-7155

I N F O R M A T I O N B R I E F

O N T H E

A S S O C I A T I O N ' S

O P E R A T I O N A N D A C T I V I T I E S .

December, 1971.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

RATIONALE FOR BEGINNING

The employment of legal remedies is a vital and indispensable weapon in the fight for environmental quality.

Private actions through the courts, either against the acts of government agencies or in pursuit of private redress, have been the hallmark of our political system. Enlightened legislation is often preceded by a long history of litigation.

Even the most comprehensive legislation cannot anticipate every potential public or private interest. Furthermore, administrative agencies vested with the power to protect the environment often become too single-minded or too sensitive to particular political pressures and generally become too overworked to deal adequately with individual complaints.

Private litigation provides a check on government activities as well as a stimulus for enlightened legislation and government decisions. The availability of private litigation is a long standing traditional safeguard of individual rights.

THE PEOPLE

The Environmental Law Association (ELA) is composed of volunteers mainly from the legal community interested in developing Environmental Law. The governing body of ELA consists of representatives from the Bar, law faculties and the general public.

OPERATION

ELA is an independent organization providing legal assistance in the community and servicing complaints from The Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation that could not be remedied without legal action.

OBJECTIVES

The general objectives underlining any decision of ELA to initiate legal action are:

1. To generate and establish legal precedents which will make legal sanctions concerning the environment more meaningful and easier to employ.

2. To highlight the implications of certain government decisions pertaining to the environment.
3. To stimulate government agencies inundated with routine work to scrutinize with greater care the effects of their activities.
4. To provide specific remedies for private and public wrongs in circumstances where such relief is otherwise unavailable.

PARTICIPATION

ELA needs the help of individuals and groups to make it effective. Any citizen may support the Association by becoming a member. The effectiveness of the Association's role in attacking environmental problems in court or before administrative agencies is directly related to the size of its membership.

HELP PROTECT OUR RIGHTS TO A CLEAN AND ENJOYABLE ENVIRONMENT.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

DO IT NOW.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Adults	\$10.00
Students	\$ 4.00

Send membership fees to:

Environmental Law Association,
Ramsay Wright Building,
25 Harbord Street,
Toronto 181, Ontario.

Telephone: 928-7156.

Environmental Law News, published 6 times per year.