

EMILY C. GENERAL AND SIX NATIONS SCHOOLS
APRIL 22, 1999
EARTH DAY ON THE EVE OF THE MILLENNIUM

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Grades Six to Eight

“What Can We Do For Clean Air, Water, Food, Clothes, Land and Buildings?”

I thought I would talk today about the things that you do every day of your life. You are all around 10 to 14 years old. In 2010, you'll be twenty to twenty-four; in 2020, you'll be thirty to thirty-four - almost, but not quite as old as I am! What will it be like, living then? What will the environment be like?

Do you think that the environment is well-protected now? Why?

You don't have to be twenty-four or thirty-four to care about the environment. Every one of us, from before we're born, are affected by the environment around us, as are all of the living things everywhere.

Every day of your life, you have to breathe the air, drink the water, eat the food, play sports on the soil, wear the clothes and go to school and live in the buildings that you find around you. All of these things are essential to our lives. We would expect the very best protection of the environmental quality of all of these things - we should expect the very best protection.

Unfortunately, we still have a lot of work to do to better protect our air, water, soil, food, clothes and buildings from harmful pollution.

What I'd like to do today is to do a sort of a work-book about how we can better protect each one of these areas. I'll need your help. When we're done, I'd really like it if each one of you could come up to the front to sign your name or draw a picture or write a sentence, and then maybe we could send our work-book to the premier of Ontario, if you think that that's a good idea and it's all right with your teachers. Maybe you can tell me when we're done if you want me to do that.

One of the things that I want you to go away today thinking about, is that what each of you thinks, matters. If you want something done, say about our laws, it's really important to let the people that make the laws know what you think. A lot of the environmental laws in Ontario are made by the Ontario Legislature. A lot of other environmental laws are made by the Parliament of Canada. You probably knew those things. But did you know that there are a lot of other important environmental laws that are made in your own community? Some of them are made by the Band Council and some of them are made by your traditional leaders and elders and some of them are important customs. Even the rules and practices in your own family can be considered to be important laws for environmental protection. So the other thing that I want you to think about after today is: what can be done in my own family and in my own community to ensure the very best environmental protection of our air, water, soil, food, clothes and buildings? Don't let that power be taken away from you by people saying that it's not your job to worry about these things.

**WORKBOOK: PROTECTING OUR
AIR, WATER, SOIL, FOOD, LAND, CLOTHES AND BUILDINGS**

PART I - AIR

Question 1: What things can pollute our air?

Question 2: How could our air be cleaner?

Question 3: What needs to happen for cleaner air?

PART II - WATER

Question 1: What things can pollute our water?

Question 2: How could our water be cleaner?

Question 3: What needs to happen for cleaner water?

PART III - SOIL

Question 1: What things can pollute our soil?

Question 2: How could our soil be cleaner?

Question 3: What needs to happen for cleaner soil?

PART IV - FOOD

Question 1: What things can pollute our food?

Question 2: How could our food be cleaner?

Question 3: What needs to happen for cleaner food?

PART V - LAND & BUILDINGS

Question 1: What things can pollute our land and buildings?

Question 2: How could our land and buildings be cleaner?

Question 3: What needs to happen for cleaner land and buildings?

PART VI - CLOTHES

Question 1: What things can pollute our clothes?

Question 2: How could our clothes be cleaner?

Question 3: What needs to happen for cleaner clothes?