

Saskatchewan
ECO-NETWORK

NETWORKNEWS

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CEN Restructured

On May 25, 2002, the CEN Annual General Assembly ratified a new governance model for the network that will be implemented over the next 6-12 months. The new structure will see the creation of a representative council composed of caucus and regional delegates with by-laws guaranteeing Aboriginal and Francophone membership.

The council will ensure the mission of the network is pursued; elect the board of directors; bring the perspectives of members, affiliates and caucuses to the discussion of the council; report on a regular basis to their constituents; and act in the overall best interest of the CEN. With a skills-based board of directors and a representative council directly accountable to the membership, environmental priorities will provide greater focus to the network. This increased stability in governance will lead to a more secured funding base for CEN and will provide opportunity for continued improvement.

The CEN is now in a stronger position to focus on improving Aboriginal and Francophone participation in caucus activities. With the aim of developing a strategic work plan for engagement, invitations have been extended by the National Office to meet with the First Nations Environmental Network; the policy staff at the Assembly of First Nations; Aboriginal Affairs at Environment Canada; and the First Nations Caucus of the Ontario Environmental Network (OEN).


Similarly, the CEN has extended invitations to the Board of Directors of the Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes and to Quebec-based ENGOs currently engaged in CEN caucus activities and international consultations to discuss options for improved engagement within the broader network. Among these options, a pilot project relating to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) that will attempt parallel track (Francophone/Anglophone) caucus processes for the file over a year-long term; and a revised International Programme with a strong Quebec component with CEN consolidating regional activities into a broader workplan. Meanwhile, the National Caucus Unit is currently assessing the feasibility of a new Consultations and Outreach Coordinator to expand caucus services and accessibility to the benefit of all of CEN's constituent parts.

The National Office invites all interested members to participate, and in particular encourages those groups that have felt under-served to contribute to an improved, more inclusive CEN. A transition board of directors is currently in place to oversee the restructuring and transition period. Board members include: Lillian Howard, BC Natural Spaces; Doug Badger, High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee; Steve Rison, Dawson Creek Citizens' Advisory For Environmental Research; Helen Forsey, National Farmer's Union; Steve Rauh, Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Winnipeg; Arciris Guaray, Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout; and Andrea Waywenko, Alberta Federation of Labour, Environment Committee.

SEN AGM to be held July 28 at Craik

The SEN Annual General Meeting will be held Sunday, July 28 at Craik, Saskatchewan from 1 PM to 5 PM. In addition to the required business meeting, we will be having a program featuring a tour of the Craik Eco-Village, a demonstration project that SEN member group, the Prairie Institute for Human Ecology, is working on with the town of Craik.

Greg Wagner, SEN's summer student will present his research on Ethanol and Sustainability. We will also have time for networking among people from different groups that are working on similar issues so that you can find out what each other is doing and hopefully, find some synergies and develop some common strategies.

People are invited to come and have a picnic together at 12 noon at Craik Regional Park before the meeting starts. Craik is located along Highway 11, 115 km/70 miles north of Regina and 145 km/90 miles south of Saskatoon. 

Report by Randy Fleming

The work of the Environmental Assessment Caucus has taken on double momentum as a result of the government's erstwhile attempts to amend the Environmental Assessment Act [CEAA] by introducing Bill C-19 as well as passing the new Species at Risk Act [SARA] before the end of this session of Parliament.

There were early outward signs of goodwill demonstrated by Environment Minister David Anderson, to receive and consider input of concerned Canadians during the Five Year Review of CEAA commenced in 2000. But the findings of this review were distilled by the Minister and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and are reflected in Bill C-19. The new bill demonstrates the single-mindedness of the Agency and Minister to streamline the environmental assessment [EA] review process by excluding more projects from comprehensive studies and panel reviews – even where adverse environmental effects may warrant the holding of such EA processes – so long as mitigation measures can be shown to minimize the adverse environmental effects on balance.

Public participation is neither enhanced nor made “more meaningful” (the Minister's words) under C-19. It is classic window dressing; a way for a government ignoring its earlier promises to make government and industry more

accountable to the public in projects with environmental impacts [viz. the 1993 Red Book]. The government went so far as to exclude projects coming under the purview of CIDA and the Export Development Corporation from CEAA. Have CANDU will travel!

How public participation is to be augmented is a good question. This is supposed to be facilitated by more timely access to information, namely via an electronic registry (with selective choice of contents at discretion of Agency) and expanded opportunities for public participation mainly at the screening level – but with no price tag attached to finance such participation. The bottom line is that Cabinet in consultation with Minister will determine when and to what extent public will be involved. Safeguarding this process will be an “environmental coordinator” whose main task appears to be assuring efficiency in the whole environmental review process and who appears to be accountable to no one in particular, based on Bill C-19.

Aboriginal perspectives are supposed to be integrated into the assessment review process where it impacts on traditional harvesting, fishing etc. and in particular, involving those reserve lands and treaty and settled land claims areas. The problem is that how this will be accomplished is yet to be elaborated by means of regulation. This has done nothing to bolster confidence among First Nations as to how federally funded projects on reserve lands are to be reviewed and if so, what stream or process will be used.

Regulatory amendments are now being made to the Canadian Nuclear Safety and Control Act allegedly to permit federal legislation in relation to EA to conform with former provisions under the Atomic Energy Control Act. Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing! Now uranium and thorium mines are classed as one of several types of nuclear facilities with new thresholds established for processing or storing nuclear wastes. The new thresholds for EA review purposes will once again be subject to regulatory control (side-stepping Parliamentary review) with appropriate inclusion/exclusion lists. Just for starters, the threshold for (unsealed) nuclear substances is lowered for transportation purposes. This is nothing more than a colourable attempt to allow Canada to become a “dumping ground” for foreign nuclear waste under new WTO and NAFTA rules!

So much for the so-called new science advanced by environmental and medical ethicists that would lead us from “chance to choice”. Don't be mistaken, the new capitalism espoused by stakeholders like Cameco and Cogema that are mining uranium in Saskatchewan, is not to forsake the old bottom line for something so trivial as environmental considerations with either short or long-term effects. Evidence the cleanup bill for abandoned uranium mines in Upper Wollaston watershed. \$25 million and counting, and seemingly the only party available today and able to pay is the good old Saskatchewan taxpayer! The original parties no longer exist in fact or law!

New Study on Biotech Policy


The Real Board of Directors: The Construction of Biotechnology Policy in Canada, 1980-2002 by Devlin Kuyek, Research Group on Technoscience du Vivant et Société, Univ. du Québec à Montréal was recently published by The Ram's Horn.

Brewster Kneen comments: “This meticulously referenced study makes it abundantly clear that Canadians, including Parliament, were never intended to even be aware of, much less shape, government policy regarding biotechnology. This paper

traces the development of biotechnology policy and government financing of biotech research and development from 1980 to the present. It provides the names and true identities of The Real Board of Directors who have been making the decisions to spend billions of public dollars to subsidize a sector of the economy that has delivered very little while promising much.

This book is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand Canada's relentless support of the biotech industry and the

willingness of both conservative and liberal governments to unequivocally violate public interest. This study lays the foundation for both investigative journalism and academic research in the areas of health policy, science policy, and much more.”

It is available in PDF format at www.ramshorn.bc.ca or in print from The Ram's Horn, S6, C27, RR.1, Sorrento, BC, V0E 2W0, Canada for \$13, including postage. 

National Hog Barn conference planned for Fall 2002

In March 2001 the first national Sustainable Livestock Farms and Healthy Communities Conference was held in London, Ontario. At that time a national coalition was formed, with representatives from each province where industrial hog barns, feed lots, and poultry operations are a concern.

The Coalition is planning its second conference to be held in Saskatoon in late October or early November in Saskatoon (date to be finalized soon). Featured speakers from Canada and the USA will speak on legal issues; food safety; community health and environmental impacts; economic and social impacts; animal welfare/alternative production systems; worker health, safety and rights; and trade agreements as they relate to agricultural commodities. There will also be participatory workshops for people to go in-depth into the aspect of ILOs they are most interested in. For more information, contact Rick Sawa at (306) 978-5308 or <ccpasask@sasktel.net>.

Expanding Saskatchewan's Ethanol Industry

By Greg Wagner

The environmental benefits of ethanol blended gasoline and the potential economic benefits of an expanded ethanol industry have generated substantial enthusiasm in Saskatchewan. It is seen as an environmentally friendly industry that would compliment Saskatchewan's primary agricultural production and provide an economic boost to rural areas, but the issue is more complicated than simply creating a new market for Saskatchewan grain.

Ethanol production and its use as a fuel are typically described as "renewable" and "sustainable" economic activities. While the feedstock (grain) used to produce ethanol could be considered a renewable resource compared to the world's finite supply of fossil fuels, the issues surrounding the sustainability of an expanded ethanol industry in Saskatchewan are more complex. Questions concerning social equity and the economic sustainability of an expanded ethanol industry seem to have taken a backseat to the excitement surrounding ethanol as a non-fossil energy source.

The expansion of Saskatchewan's ethanol production is being promoted as an ideal value-added industry to lead the economic revitalization of many of our rural communities. While there are synergies between grain-based ethanol production and Saskatchewan's agricultural economy, the potential

environmental and economic benefits will depend on the direction and scope of industry development. Since expansion of the ethanol industry is entirely dependent on government policy, it could provide a valuable opportunity to develop a comprehensive plan designed to encourage renewable energy sources and sustainable economic development.


Opportunities rarely present themselves without challenges, however, and developing Saskatchewan's ethanol industry will be no exception. The current proposal involving four communities and Broe Ind. of Denver, Colorado raises issues of ownership and social equity. Furthermore, the Province's Greenprint on Ethanol Production in Saskatchewan focuses on supplying export markets that may or may not be reliable.

For Saskatchewan's ethanol industry to develop in a truly sustainable manner:

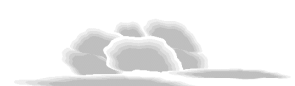
- the economic and environmental benefits to rural communities where ethanol production takes place need to be maximized.
- the entire ethanol production process needs to minimize any potential negative environmental impacts.
- the long-term economic viability of the industry needs to be examined in a comprehensive way, before a development model is chosen.

Ethanol production in Saskatchewan has the potential to play a valuable role as part of an overall strategy to promote more sustainable economic development, but complex environmental and socio-economic issues need to be addressed before the full range of potential benefits provided by expanded ethanol production can be determined.

Watch the ISSUES page on the SEN website for an in-depth look at some of the potential benefits and pitfalls of an expanded ethanol industry in Saskatchewan. There are several reasons being given for the need to expand ethanol production, so we will discuss some of those reasons and the complex factors related to them.

In addition, we will look at some of the potential opportunities that industry expansion could provide, as well as some of the challenges with developing a sustainable ethanol industry. 

- Greg Wagner is SEN's summer student worker. He is doing research on some of Saskatchewan's key growth sectors, identifying local and regional opportunities, and compiling information from national or international experiences that may affect or inform the provincial situation. His findings will be posted on the SEN website and he will be making a presentation at the SEN AGM as well.



By Elmer Laird

The Back To The Farm Research Foundation's research and demonstration farm is the first certified organic research and demonstration farm in Canada. The federal government spent \$914,000 to establish a research and education centre at Nova Scotia Agricultural College, but we haven't heard anything about it being certified organic. It was established on July 12, 2001.

Here at the Back To The Farm Research Foundation, we have had a busy spring seeding the test plots and at the same time also developing a five-year budget for the research and demonstration farm and the organic information centre.

The farm is in a good location for an information centre. It is two and one-half miles south of Davidson located on #11 Highway (which is a major 4-lane highway) halfway between Saskatchewan's two major cities, Regina and Saskatoon. It is also on the main highway route from Florida to Alaska.

We have worked on the budget with the help of Mr. Grant McWilliams, head of Saskatchewan Industry and Resources in Moose Jaw. We recently put the final touches on the \$1,460,500 five-year budget or an average of \$292,100 per year. This includes employing a staff of eight and building a 40' X 77' strawbale, solar-heated office building which includes wheelchair accessible composting toilets and a demonstration greenhouse. The estimated cost of the building is \$203,000 including \$50,000 for furnishings.

The reason we are building the strawbale office and information centre is to demonstrate methods of energy efficiency in housing, greenhouse production and livestock and poultry housing.

Canada's Environment minister says he is going to sign the Kyoto Agreement. Premiers Calvert and Klein are saying, "What is it going to cost?" We are going to start looking at how much can be saved in energy cost in food production – Kyoto or no Kyoto.

The May 25, 2002 edition of the *Winnipeg Free Press* carried an article by journalist Bruce Stanley entitled "Oil Experts Issue Warning: Global Supply Decline, Economic Upheaval Forecast Draw Fire." Dateline-Uppsala, Sweden. The article states, in part: "Global supplies of crude oil will peak as early as 2010 and then start to decline, ushering in an era of soaring energy prices and economic upheaval. So claims an international group of petroleum specialists hoping to persuade oil-dependent countries to stop squandering the planet's finite supply of fossils fuels."

At the rate we are burning up fossils fuels there is little doubt in my mind that they are right and eight years is a very short time to prepare for such a major event. Our research foundation's policy is to develop self-sufficient farms and communities that will produce and store all the foods that can be produced in that community with a minimum amount of energy. Food security will attract large numbers of people back to the rural community. Agriculture pesticides are now obsolete and the clean environment of rural communities will be an added attraction.

The season of 2001 was an extremely dry season and we

didn't seed any test plots. 2002 looks more promising so we have our test plots seeded. Inter-cropping is obviously going to be the system of farming in the future. This means growing two or more crops in one field to control bugs, control weeds, improve soil conditions, or a combination of all three. For example, we know from past experience that a combination of peas and oats will control weeds better than either crop alone. It also fixes nitrogen. Fall rye will eliminate a very persistent weed, wild millet, and many others for several years.

The information centre will provide:


1. Information on where to buy certified organic products and possibly sell some of them. One of our problems today is the fact that the supermarkets are still obsessed with marketing non-organic products and do not advertise the few they do market.
2. Production information for certified organic farmers or gardeners or ones that wish to become certified organic producers. The best source of information on organic farming is other organic farmers.

We will employ staff for the information office that has communication, filing and librarian skills. We will use e-mail, computers, fax machines and telephones to get answers to any questions as soon as possible. As soon as we have an office and staff, we will send questionnaires to all the certified organic farmers and gardeners in the province and ask them what crops they grow, livestock and poultry they raise, orchards, herbs, etc. We will ask these farmers if they will be resource people for the certified organic information centre. Then when we get a question, we will check our files to match the farmer who is experienced at growing that particular crop with the farmer that had the question.

We will keep a library of all organic publications and perhaps we will be able to supplement the personal contact by faxing or e-mailing information as well. Certified organic farmers who agree to take part in the program will be registered in their particular soil zone and with all the pertinent data related to their farming area so they can help their neighbours.

Behind the information centre will be a demonstration herb garden, which will be supervised by at least one staff member who is knowledgeable in growing herbs. We would also support other certified organic research and demonstration farms that may be organized throughout the province.

What we are proposing is nothing new. Early pioneers all needed the help of their neighbours to function on their homesteads. Early homesteaders will tell you that homestead life was very exciting because there was a continuous exchange of information at local schoolhouse dances, programs, parties, ball games, auction sales and picnics. Life was never dull. If you want an exciting lifestyle, join the organic farm movement!

To support the certified organic research and demonstration farm, make cheques payable to the Back To The Farm Research Foundation. All donors will receive a charitable tax redemption receipt. 

The Living by Water Project Calls for Shoreline Ambassadors!

By Kimberly Epp (LBW SK/MB Coordinator)

Are you concerned about the cleanliness of your water supply? There is increasing reason for concern, as it is becoming too commonplace to find problems with our water. As our activities and residences along the shorelines increase, so does our impact on water.

If you live, work or play near water you can help protect, conserve or restore shorelands, and thereby ensure clean drinking water for our generation and future generations as well as protect valuable wildlife habitat.

Shorelands, also known as riparian areas, are the narrow strips

of land located along waterbodies such as lakes, creeks, sloughs and rivers. These areas are also called transition zones and are vital edges in which land and water meet to create unique and often highly productive ecosystems.

Shoreland ecosystems help purify water by filtering out sediment and trapping pollutants, including fertilizer and pesticide residues. They also protect water quality by absorbing excess nutrients from both natural and human sources.

These ecosystems maintain stream base flows, recharge groundwater and limit flooding by absorbing water through banks and shorelands. They also stabilize and protect banks from erosion, offer valuable wildlife habitat as well as habitat for rare plants and for feeding and spawning fish.

The Shoreline Ambassador program acknowledges and rewards actions taken to protect and restore your local shorelines. If you have a shoreline educational event or other event planned and would like recognition, or for information on how you and your group may become Shoreline Ambassadors, contact Kim at (306) 780-9834 or e-mail shorelines@natureesask.com.



Shoreline Ambassadors busy at work.

Prairie Youth Have Opportunity To Become Water Watchdogs

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is pleased to announce the launch of Water Watchdog, a hands-on environmental program that provides the opportunity for youth from throughout the Prairies to become watershed stewards in their own communities.



Water Watchdog is an action-awareness program. The goal is to increase understanding about Prairie watersheds, water quality and watershed stewardship. After “sniffing out” these concepts, youth “nose around” and collect data at a local stream or lake. After data collection and analysis, Water Watchdog participants are encouraged to “get on the barking chain” by creating an action plan and sharing their new knowledge. Water Watchdog instills a sense of individual


responsibility for our most valuable resource - water.

“Whether rural or urban we all impact the water,” states Jo-Anne Richter, Project Manager of Partners FOR Saskatchewan River Basin. “The Water Watchdog program develops the understanding that we can reduce the impact by taking action and becoming water stewards. The program will result in young people sharing their newfound sense of water awareness with their local communities.”

The Water Watchdog program is comprised of a “ready to go kit” that includes a Leaders Guide, Field Guides to Water Stewardship and materials to test basic water quality parameters. With this program, young people receive the tools to reach an understanding about the condition of streams, rivers, lakes and ponds in their community.

The program was developed by Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River

Basin in 2000 and very successfully piloted in the summer of 2001.

Water Watchdog Kits are now available! Thanks to program sponsors, kits are a subsidized rate of \$10.00 each. Suitable for youth ages 7-14, each kit provides supplies for up to 5 participants. For more information contact Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin at (306) 665-6887 or visit our website at www.saskriverbasin.ca 

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB), is a non-profit organization established in 1993 with a mission of promoting watershed sustainability through awareness, linkages and stewardship. We believe that awareness and education about watersheds empowers people to take positive action. Water Watchdog is a perfect example of this.



Maisie Sheill was born in Great Britain in 1915, the daughter of a career British army officer. In her early to middle years, a number of circumstances brought her into contact with issues of war, peace, militarism, imperialism and oppression. She worked for a year in Germany in the mid-1930s and saw the rise of fascism first-hand, and then again as a Red Cross worker in Europe in 1945-46, she saw the tragic results.

Marrying a Canadian soldier after the war and settling on his homestead in rural Saskatchewan, she became a farmer's wife and a mother, but she was not satisfied to be restricted to these roles. She became interested in issues of peace and disarmament during the 1950s and was an early member of the Voice of Women. After the death of her husband in 1965, she got a teaching certificate and taught school for a number of years to support herself and her family. During these years she came in contact with aboriginal people who were beginning to organize in Saskatchewan. The first six decades of her life, however, seem almost a prelude to the work for which she has become known over the last quarter century.

In June of 1976, as she turned 61, she attended the United Nations Habitat conference in Vancouver, where she met some Greenpeace activists who asked her to ask the Saskatchewan environment minister about Saskatchewan's policy regarding uranium. She tells the story as follows:

At one of the sessions at which citizens were allowed to ask questions of elected officials, she asked the Saskatchewan environment minister, "What is the Saskatchewan government's policy regarding uranium?" He told her he would have an answer for her in two days. Two days later she went back to meet the minister again, hoping for an answer, only to learn that the day before, the environment minister had boarded a plane and returned to Saskatchewan. She then adds, "That was back in 1976 that I asked my question, and they still haven't given me an answer."


In the environment minister's reluctance to answer a simple question, Maisie smelled a rat, and in the months following she began doing her own research on issues of nuclear technology, low level radiation and its effect on eco-systems and human health. Over the following years, she would become known as the grandmother anti-nuclear activist who could challenge any nuclear industry official, politician or government bureaucrat at any public hearing or conference on questions around uranium mining and low level radiation, and never fail to stop them in their propagandic tracks. She would attend the Bata inquiry in 1977, the Key Lake inquiry in 1981, the FEARO hearings into uranium expansion, chaired by Don Lee, in 1993. You name the hearing and you would find Maisie there, foolscap pad clutched to her chest, returning to the microphone again and again to ask the difficult questions.

In 1985, she was present at a three-day blockade of the Rabbit Lake uranium mine in north-east Saskatchewan. In 1986, she challenged the Amok uranium mining company in court regarding their plans to remove gold from uranium tailings, and established the Grandmothers' Environmental Fund to help fund her legal costs. Over the years, she also came to focus particularly on the question of alpha radiation, sensing that the negative effects of alpha particles have often been ignored and underestimated.

Maisie has never been stumped by a question. She is incredible to watch. Most recently she gave a presentation to the parliamentary hearing on the revision of the CEAA. She is so keen about this issue that she was willing to pay her own expenses (at short notice and therefore substantial) to get to Ottawa.


In her presentation she emphasized that, although Sec. 4 encourages project officers to go towards sustainability, Sec. 20 will allow higher grades to go through. She thinks that we are going in the opposite direction because of all the radium that will be brought to the surface, with NO scientific data on alpha radiation. She is more alert to the goings-on in the industry than anyone, including our so-called regulators. She is so concerned about future generations and their exposure to alpha radiation. She thinks it is unfair to saddle them with the errors of our ways.

In short, in her "retirement" years, Maisie took on the full-time job of environmental activist and citizen watchdog. She came to live the life we should all live and became what John Ralston Saul calls a "Socratic citizen, a citizen who stands before the power system, speaks truth, asks questions, unravels falsehoods and stands gentle but firm."

As her 87th birthday approaches and she continues undaunted with her activist work, I am greatly honored to be able to nominate her for the CEN lifetime achievement award. May the world have ten more Maisies for every alpha ray. 

- Nominated by David Greenfield and Lynda Murphy, Inter Church Uranium Committee.

And the Award Goes To ...

Canadian Environmental Network celebrated its 25th year by establishing awards to honour environmental activists across the country. This year the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to both the late Irene Kock of Ontario and Maisie Sheill of Saskatoon. The Best Campaign Award went to the Canadian Health Coalition. Martha Kostuch of Alberta received the Volunteer Award. Details regarding the award recipients can be seen on the CEN website at www.cen-rce.org. 

SEN's New Website is up!

SEN is pleased to announce that our new improved website is now up at www.econet.sk.ca. We hope that this new website will be an important and useful tool for our member groups and the public at large – including environmental activists, educators, students, researchers, journalists or concerned citizens. A quick look at usage statistics shows sharply increased visits since the new site was launched at the end of April, including viewers from over 20 different countries in June alone!

Our aim is to provide a well-researched, well-maintained, fast-loading website specifically designed and written for Saskatchewan people, that also provides a gateway to a wide variety of other relevant websites.

Following are the main features of the new site.

- [About Us](#) provides contact information for all our member groups and a link to the CEN website as well as current and back issues of the SEN newsletter downloadable in PDF format.

- [The Issues page](#) provides an overview of Saskatchewan environmental issues and many related links. Additional topics will be added as we build up our website. If you would like to contribute to this page please contact the SEN office for details.


- [The Action page](#) highlights member groups' hot topics and campaigns that are looking for public support. Here is also where you can find contact information for all Saskatchewan MLAs, MPs and municipal politicians.

- [The Media page](#) has links to major mainstream and alternative media in Saskatchewan, Canada and abroad. Use it to send a letter to the editor to Saskatchewan's major papers, get contact information for radio and TV stations, and to learn how to write a press release, organize a press conference and more.

- PDF versions of SEN publications such as *How's the Water* that can be downloaded and reprinted as needed.

- [The Events calendars](#) on the home page is where you can publicize and/or find out about public meetings, conferences, meetings and other upcoming events.


New features will be added in the coming months. Watch for a page about books, libraries and other non-electronic resources and a page with tools for activists and organizations that will provide resources for setting up and developing groups and campaigns.

Thanks go to John Yates, our website designer, and to SERM for providing funding support for this project. 

CLC Environment Award goes to Sharon Power

SEN Steering Committee member and long-time Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Environment Committee member Sharon Power is the recipient of the Canadian Labour Congress's Environmental Award recognizing individual commitment and activism. The award was presented at the tri-annual CLC national convention in Vancouver on June 11.

Sharon is a member of CUPE Local 3970. She has participated in numerous union committees over the years, including her local Occupational Health and Safety Committee, the Humboldt and District Labour Council, and the CUPE National Environment Committee. Sharon was also recognized by the CLC for her work with SEN on the Steering Committee and the Water Working Group/WaterWatch Committee.

Congratulations Sharon! And keep up the good work! 

SEN Steering Committee 2001/2002

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"It is necessary, with bold spirit and in good conscience, to save civilization. We must halt the dissolution that corrupts the roots of human society. The bare and barren tree can be made green again. Are we not ready?"

- Antonio Gramsci

Does your environmental organization have more legal questions than answers? We just might be able to help ... free of charge.

Sound too good to be true? Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) is a program at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law, that matches law students with non-profit organizations, government agencies, and lawyers working on pro bono cases.

While PBSC does not provide your organization with legal advice, they do provide you with legal information. The most frequent tasks students perform are researching legal questions, preparing briefs responding to or assessing legislation, and evaluating the legal aspects of proposed programs.

Last year, the law student demand for environmentally oriented legal projects greatly exceeded the supply. This year, the student coordinators are seeking out more student placements with environmental interest

groups, especially those based in rural areas.

Organizations will be asked to define a possible legal project together with the student coordinators in the summer. The student then works on the project for two to three hours a week, between September and March, excluding exam time.

For the organizations: we only ask for your feedback throughout the school term and your assistance in providing the student volunteer with the necessary information.

If your organization is interested in arranging a placement or needs more information, please contact the Student Coordinators, Cathryn Hildebrandt and Desmond MacMillan, at 966-7757 or at pbscsk@hotmail.com.



Join the Network!
 New members are welcome. Membership is open to non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations involved in environmental protection activities. Individuals who support the Network's objectives may also join as subscribers but may not vote or hold office.

Name/Contact Person
 Organization
 Title
 Address
 Postal Code
 Phone Fax
 Email

Membership fees:

Annual budget of less than \$5,000	\$30.00
Annual budget from \$5,000 to \$29,999	\$35.00
Annual budget from \$30,000 to \$99,999	\$45.00
Annual budget of \$100,000 or more	\$50.00
Organization fees include \$10.00 membership in the CEN	
Individual subscriber	\$10.00

Please send your cheque to Saskatchewan Eco-Network,
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