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ELECTION-ENVIRONMENT-ELECTION

Environmental issues are always critical in elections, and the current Manitoba one is no exception. With major developments like Repap and Conawapa looming on the horizon, and with issues like waste reduction, the depletion of the ozone layer, quality of our drinking water, and protection of endangered spaces on people's minds, an election at any level of government must elicit clear positions from all parties on their environmental directions and plans.

The Network is planning to hold its traditional forum/debate on the environment during the election campaign. We feel justified in asking the leaders of the three major parties to participate in the event, given the high public profile of environmental issues. All three leaders have been approached as this newsletter goes to press, and we're tentatively planning for a Sept. 4 date, at noon. Member groups of the Network are being asked to provide questions for the debate, and for a formal questionnaire which will be sent to the parties, and whose results we will publish prior to the election.

As always, readers are
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"EARP" UNDERGOING CHANGES

In June, the Federal Government introduced the long-promised Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA): legislation to replace the Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guidelines Order of 1984. The process of changing EARP was initiated in 1987, with a series of public consultations with various interest groups across the country. The plan was to strengthen the environmental assessment process, with the goal of improving the integration of economic and environmental decision-making.

Ironically, actions by citizens' groups, notably the Canadian Wildlife Federation, SCRAP (Stop Construction of the Rafferty-Alameda Project), and Friends of the Oldman River, brought about the strengthening of EARP well before the new legislation was introduced. In separate actions, these groups went to court, arguing that the EARP Guidelines Order obligated the Federal Government to carry out full environmental

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CIDA FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

The Canadian International Development Agency, (CIDA), has begun an ENGO (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization) Support Program, designed to assist environmental groups in projects with developing country partners. The program addresses two levels of need - one for groups already involved with development programs, and one for groups with no development experience, who wish to become involved with a partner group or groups in the developing world. Guidelines and criteria for application to the program are available at the Network office.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

To all member groups: we need to make one further modification to our by-laws, in order to attain charitable status. Please note that a meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11, 1990 at 7:30pm, in the Network Office for this purpose. Thank you.

WORLD '90 CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN WINNIPEG

October 17-20 are the dates for this international conference on environment, energy and the economy. 3,000 delegates from 80 countries are expected to attend workshops, displays and plenary sessions on the theme of "Sustainable Development Strategies, The New World Agenda". To register, or for more information, call Evhan Uzwysyn at 945-7973.

RESOURCE CENTRE FOR TEACHERS

The International Centre for Students at the U of M wants people to know about its resource centre located in Room 541 at University Centre. Open Monday to Friday, 8:30-4:30, the centre has several useful tools for those teaching about environment and development, including reference books, a teaching kit on rainforests, NFB videos on the environment, and a user-friendly database. Call them at 474-8501 for more information.

MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

CO-ORDINATOR.....Anne Lindsey

EXECUTIVE

CHAIR.....Jack Dubois

VICE-CHAIR.....Brian Pannell

SECRETARY.....Bill Goddard

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE.....Brian Pannell

STEERING COMMITTEE

Jack Dubois	-Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Bill Goddard	-Crossroads Resource Group
Bryan Johnson	-Citizens Against Neurotoxins
Carolyn Kryschuk	-Manitoba Naturalists Society
Kate Maddigan	-Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Harry Mesman	-Manitoba Federation of Labour
Brian Pannell	-Manitoba Environmentalists, Inc.
Rhoda Rempel	-Project Peacemakers

The Eco-Network Resource Centre, bookstore and office are located at Room 202-128 James Ave. (behind the Concert Hall). Phone 956-1468 or 949-9052.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Manitoba Eco-Network.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug.20-31: Public Utilities Board Hearings on Manitoba Hydro's capital plans (Conawapa Dam). Holiday Inn, downtown.
Call 956-1468 for more information.

Aug.27: Pine Falls public meeting on Abitibi-Price forestry license application. The Lodge (opposite the mill), 7pm.

Aug.30: Winnipeg public meeting on Abitibi-Price forestry license application, Meeting RM.1, Wpg. Convention Centre, 7pm.

Sept.4: Party Leaders' debate on the Environment hosted by the Network. Location, time, TBA, call 956-1468 for details.

Sept.6,7 and 8: Solar Energy Society display at Unicity Mall.

Sept.7,8 and 9: Festival of Peace, International Peace Garden, Hwy 10, south of Boissevain, Ernest Dyck at 534-2563 for info.

Sept.8: Synthen Resources and Abitibi-Price tour of operating forestry sites, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure for Abitibi's forest license application. No charge. 956-1468 for more info.

Sept.11: MANITOBA PROVINCIAL ELECTION - VOTE FOR THE EARTH!!!!

Sept.25: Recycling Council of Manitoba, general meeting. Guest speakers on the subject of paper. Versatech Industries, 436 William Ave. 7:30pm.

Sept.27: Oxfam and Cinematheque present the Manitoba Premiere of The Forbidden Land, a film about war and famine in Eritrea, with moving footage from inside the country. Artspace, 100 Arthur St. Adm.\$5.

Sept.29: The Marquis Project workshop on effective lobbying, featuring Dr. Paul Thomas, and several politicians. Brandon Centennial Library, 9-4pm. 727-5675 for info.

Oct.4: Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women presents Marcia Nozick speaking on Eco-feminism, Rm.3C01 U of W. 7:30pm.

Oct.17: World Environment, Energy and Economic Conference (World to 20 '90) Winnipeg Convention Centre. Call 945-3042 for details.

Oct.18: Pesticide Registration Review Public Hearings on a Draft Pest Management Regulatory System. Radisson Suite Hotel, 2-5pm, and 7-10pm.

Oct.24: United Nations Association Flag Day - a Youth Initiative on Environment and Development, at the Leg. 489-8303.

----- NEW GROUP FEATURE -----

FRIENDS OF OAK HAMMOCK MARSH -
A COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR
CONSERVATION

by Kim Tyson

The Oak Hammock Marsh, labelled the "Crown Jewel" of Manitoba Wildlife Management Areas, is threatened with commercial development. Since Ducks Unlimited Canada and Manitoba Department of Natural Resources formally announced their plans to construct a 50,000 square foot (and still growing) office building/conservation centre in January 1990, the political forces have been pushing the concept to its fruition. During the environmental hearings conducted by the Clean Environment Commission, March 26-28, it was evident that this proposal has much to do with economics, image and politics, and little to do with environmental conservation and education.

On May 1, 1990, a group of citizens decided to pool their energies and resources and form a collective voice to accomplish several goals at Oak Hammock Marsh. We support the existing interpretive educational opportunities that have MINIMAL infringement on the ecosystem; non-consumptive "use" through nature interpretation, wildlife photography and viewing; the maintenance and preservation of habitat and associated flora and fauna. We also support APPROPRIATE new initiatives, such as modest expansion of the existing interpretive centre and

employment of additional interpretive staff to enhance the educational opportunities at Oak Hammock Marsh.

Ducks Unlimited and DNR should know that we oppose their entire development plan for several valid reasons:

- the proposal contravenes existing provisions of the Wildlife Act, the Manitoba Heritage Marsh Agreement, the Provincial Land Use Policy and the South Interlake Planning District Development Plan (in April 1990, DNR/DU requested an amendment of by-laws of SIPD and Rockwood Council is preparing for third reading to pass the amendment);
- unanimous approval for the proposal from signatories to the Oak Hammock Heritage Marsh Agreement was neither sought nor given;
- private sector commercial development is not consistent with the policies, objectives and purposes of Wildlife Management Areas;
- no reasonable purpose has been stated for locating the office at Oak Hammock Marsh. There is no functional connection between the office and the marsh;
- reported savings by combining the office with the conservation centre will be negated by higher operating costs in a rural setting;
- 75% of the \$4.5 million for the conservation centre will come from public funds, DU's capital commitment to the centre is minimal;
- the proposed interpretive centre will operate on a budget underwritten in part by Ducks Unlimited for an undisclosed period. The

taxpayers will foot the entire bill thereafter;

- locating the office at Oak Hammock Marsh rather than in an existing community, compromises the Government's commitment to decentralization and strengthening the economic base of rural communities;

- the proposal received unqualified support from DNR well before any formal or informal public consultation, or consideration of the concerns of other government departments.

We would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss viable alternatives to this venture. Unfortunately, that opportunity was never possible. We are forced to either accept or reject this all-or-nothing proposal. If Ducks Unlimited cannot build their office at the marsh, they will not assist with funding for the conservation centre. That Ducks Unlimited needs a new office building is not our concern; that they insist on building it in the marsh is! It is clear to us that Ducks Unlimited is using, and will continue to use, their financial and political clout to get what they so desperately want; an office-monument at Oak Hammock Marsh. Concern for the ducks, for the marsh, or for wildlife is secondary. That the Government would allow a private corporation to exploit public land, designated as a protected area for wildlife and habitat, primarily to enhance that corporation's exposure with a view to garnering more public donations for its programs, is

appalling and unacceptable.

If you oppose this project, voice your opinion. Write or call Mr. Glen Cummings, Environment Minister, and other government officials. You can make a difference. Please consider joining us. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT in order to preserve the original purpose of Oak Hammock Marsh as a Wildlife Management Area, without governmental or commercial exploitation. For more information about Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh and how you can help protect the marsh, contact the Manitoba Eco-Network office.

RESOURCE RECOVERY INSTITUTE

The RRI recently put out a Recycling Update, reviewing the progress of its pilot and ongoing curbside recycling projects. The group is pleased to report that all programs are experiencing success and will be continuing. The telephone directory program seems to have been particularly successful, having collected over 1 million pounds of white and yellow pages from Winnipeg homes and businesses. It's not too late, if you missed the collection in June. Telephone books may be included in Blue Bags for those on the multi-materials pick-up program, or may be dropped off at the RRI facility (entrance on Robinson St. at Jarvis), Monday to Friday 8:00 to 4:30, along with your other recyclables. Call the Institute at 586-7945 if you have questions.

CONAWAPA DAM HEARINGS: UPDATE

All summer, the paperwork has been flying as utility analysts, economists and energy efficiency experts examine Manitoba Hydro's capital projects plan, which includes the massive (\$5.5 billion) Conawapa dam and associated Bipole 3 transmission line. The analysts, engaged as expert witnesses by the Public Utilities Board (PUB) and the intervenors in the Board's forthcoming hearings, have been producing some interesting, and potentially very controversial evidence on the economics and advisability of Hydro's plan. As the Winnipeg Free Press reported on August 4, even the Board's own witnesses have declared that Manitobans will likely end up subsidizing the dam construction and Hydro's power export deal to Ontario through higher rates for electricity. The Board's witnesses also recommend that Hydro examine alternatives to the East side of Lake Winnipeg route for the proposed transmission line.

Other testimony now being filed with the Board suggests strongly that Hydro has not fully examined its options for energy efficiency or "demand side management" in determining future sources of electrical supply. Witnesses for the joint intervention of Concerned Citizens of Manitoba, Conservation Strategy Association, and the Sierra Club are raising some very tough questions about the economic sustainability of large scale hydro dam development in contrast to the energy efficiency option.

With a provincial election called for September 11, and with the Conawapa development being the most costly public project ever proposed in Manitoba, the Board hearings, scheduled to begin on August 20, promise to be lively proceedings. For more information about the witness schedule, please call the Network office.

EXCITING NEW YOUTH PROGRAM!

The International Development Unit of the Winnipeg YM-YWCA is busy organizing a new leadership training program for youth. Young people ages 15 to 18 will develop leadership skills and make lasting friendships through exploring world issues such as the environment, indigenous peoples, international trade, and refugees. They will increase their awareness of the world, their community, and themselves through speakers, activities, and through involvement with local community development programs. The program will begin this September and run through to May. The fee is \$125. Phone Colleen at 942-8157 (International Development Unit) for more information. Get involved!



THE PATH TO BRAZIL '92: JOINT ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP.

In June, the Network co-hosted a one-day workshop on environment and development with the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation (MCIC). The workshop was designed for local groups to start exploring potential roles in the major UN conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992.

Workshop participants viewed the video, Environment Under Fire, which set out the challenges of environmental protection and restoration in a developing country context. (The video can be borrowed from Mennonite Central Committee). Mazide N'diaye of the in Senegal gave a talk about the perspective of the developing country NGO in today's global environment and development debate. Moses Montgomery of CUSO gave an overview of the UN's preparations so far for the Brazil conference. During the afternoon, participants divided into 3 working groups to consider the role of local NGO's in events leading up to the conference, how to develop stronger ties with developing country NGO's, and how to influence the agenda and outcomes of Brazil '92.

In July, Anne Lindsey of the Network, and Mary Stuart, representing MCIC, went to Ottawa to a joint meeting of the Canadian Environmental Network, and the Canadian Council for International Co-operation to report on our local workshop, and to discuss

other regional initiatives from around the country. It seems clear that although there is acknowledgement at the governmental level of the important role that NGO's play in environment and development issues, local groups will need to be diligent and vocal about ensuring a place for their concerns on the Brazil conference agenda. This applies perhaps even more to the southern NGO's than to ourselves, since many do not have the freedoms of expression that we enjoy. The Ottawa meeting agreed that this strongly underlines the need for increased co-operation, communication and partnership between "northern" and "southern" groups. CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency) is making some funding available to facilitate this kind of work.

Complete reports of both the Winnipeg and Ottawa meetings are available at the Network office, please call 956-1468 to request a copy.

Thanks are due to Barbara Eros for organizing the Winnipeg event.

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ELECTION

encouraged to discuss environmental questions with the candidates in their area, and to get firm commitments on the candidates' positions.

Raise the environment as part of local town-hall meetings, encourage your neighbours to talk about the issues, and about the environmental impacts of developments. Call Network member groups to find out more information.

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EARP Changes

assessments (EA's) of two large dam developments. The court agreed, setting the stage for EARP to become one of the most powerful, and useful, environmental laws in Canada.

Essentially, the court's decisions meant that any proposal for a development involving any area of Federal jurisdiction was subject to full environmental assessment and public review. (This could include government legislation, policies, and regulations).

While environmentalists lauded this turn of events, the court's decision to uphold the law caused some problems for a number of significant developments underway across the country.

The Government acted quickly to introduce its new legislation, which, according to preliminary legal analysis, considerably weakens EARP as it now stands. Downfalls of the new CEAA include: limiting the areas of federal

responsibility subject to EA's; significant discretion on the part of Cabinet as to which projects will be subject to EA; the likely inability of review Panels to consider alternatives to a given project, and appointments of review Panelists by the Minister, raising the potential for political influence in their selection.

In-depth analyses are now underway in several quarters, and a committee of Parliament has been struck to review the legislation, and possibly to hear witnesses. The Canadian Environmental Network is organizing a caucus, which will study and distribute information on the issue. The caucus will likely develop an action plan which may include calling for withdrawal, or significant amendment of the new Act.

If you have interest in contributing to the caucus, or simply would like more information, please contact the Network office.

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Detach and mail to:

The Manitoba Eco-Network, P.O. Box 3125, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6

Please sign us up as a member group of the Eco-Network: ☐
Our cheque is enclosed for group membership and subscription: \$20/year
I/We support Network activities and wish to receive the Newsletter

_____ \$10 (Individual Subscription)
_____ \$5 (Limited Income)
_____ \$40 Organizations, agencies, government departments
and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for membership.

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

I would like to do volunteer work for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

Name or contact person _____

Group _____ Telephone # () _____

Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____

Area(s) of interest _____

*(Membership is open to any non-government, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.)