ENURONMENTAL MANITOBA NETWORKANEWS

1988 JUNE/JULY

"OUR COMMON FUTURE" A PUBLIC FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

This event, co-sponsored by the Manitoba Environmental Network and CUSO was held at the University of ' Manitoba on June 4th. Approximately 200 people attended, representing the environment and development commuunities and the general public. The forum's purpose was to examine the concept of "sustainable development" as discussed by the World Commission on Environment and Development (W.C.E.D.) in their report entitled "Our Common ture." In other words, how can we have economic development without continuing to deplete and destroy the natural resources upon which we all depend? What can be done to ensure that all the world's people achieve a reasonable livivg standard - both today and in future generations? The World Commission report (also called the Brundtland report) went a long way to instill a popular awareness that the issues of environment and development are intimately linked. Without care of the environment, there will be no development - period.

For keynote speaker Lloyd Timberlake of the Environ links o spoke primar probler

people and their governments make significant and systematic changes in these areas, change will be slow in coming.

The keynote address was followed by a panel during which the theme of political responsibility for environment and development was echoed. Tim Ball, geography professor at the University of Winnipeg, stated that we first need to examine our priorities when deciding on funding for major projects. We also need to rethink our definition of "productive work" he said, ensuring that we count all the costs, including environmental and social ones.

Diane Beckett, a consultant with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), gave a report on CIDA's policies for environmental screening for new overseas development projects. Although Beckett stated that CIDA is doing relatively well on this score (at least when compared to other national develop-

cont. on page 4

ynote speaker Lloyd Timberlake		
International Institute for	INSIDE	
nment and Development, the	Dates to Rememberpage	3
go much further than that. He	Food Irradiationpage	4
of the current crises as	Public Registry Networkpage	5
ily social and political	CEN Caucus Reportspage	6
ms and emphasized that until	Groundwater Seriespage	7/8

THE MANITONA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 202-128 JAMES AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA. MAILING ADDRESS - P.O. BOX 3125, R3C 4E6.PH: (204)956-1468

SIERRA CLUB

An effort is underway in the province to establish a Manitoba group or chapter of the Sierra Club of Western Canada. The Sierra Club is active in Parks, Wildlife, Wilderness, and other issues.

If you are interested in participating in the Sierra Club contact either Janet Kennedy at 834-2541 (Carberry) or Arnold Baker at 365-2017 (Strathclair) or write in care of Box 631, Brandon, Manitoba.

SCIENCE COUNCIL REPORT

The Science Council of Canada has 'just released a report on water resources in Canada entitled "Water 2020: Sustainable Use for Water in the 21st Century." It is available for viewing at the Network office or (free of charge) by writing to:

The Publications Office Science Council of Canada 100 Metcalfe Street Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5M1

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

The following Environment Council of Alberta publications have been received at the Network office and are available for viewing:

- Prospectus for an Alberta Conservation Strategy.
- Reserves for Nature.
- Resolving Conflict: A Case Study.
- Environment by Design: The Urban Place in Alberta.

BOOK STORE

The Network is presently considering opening a bookstore as a service to environmentalists and as a
source of revenue. If there are
titles you are interested in and
are unable to find them elsewhere,
please let us know.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Copies of "Our Common Future: The World Commission on Environment and Development," are available at the Network office for \$14.95. Proceeds from the sale of books through the Network go to support various Network activities.

Also available is "2025: Soft Energy Futures for Canada -- 1988 Update," prepared for Canadian Environmental Network Energy Caucus by Ralph Torrie and David Brooks. Cost \$8.00.

These publications are available at the Network office during usual office hours - Mon. 9:00 to 4:00 and Wed. and Thurs. 8:30 to 4:00.

ronmental Network News is available to any non-profit organization wishing to promote an event, advertise resoure material or generate interest in an issue of concern.

Send submissions to the Manitoba Environmental Network office.

The Manitoba Environmental Network exists to facilitate communication among environmentalists, especially in Manitoba, and between environmentalists and government decision-makers. Membership is open to any non-govenrement, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or carrying out environmental education.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT	JOHN	BARKER
EXECUTIVE		
PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR	JACK	DUBDIS
VICE-PRESIDENT (ALTERNATE)	BRIAN	PANNELL
SECRETARY-TREASURER		.vacant

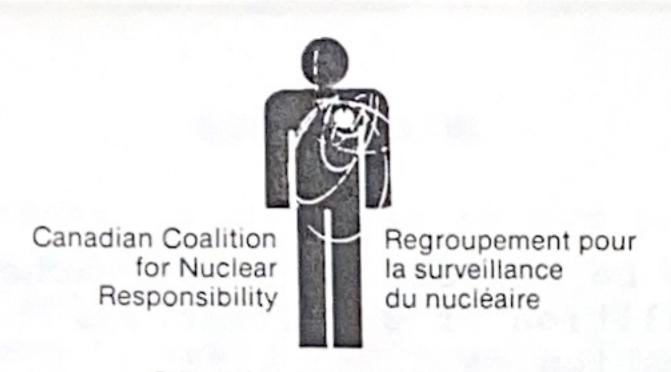
STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Anold Baker	-	Westman Wilderness Club
Jack Dubois	-	Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Randy Eros	-	Solar Energy Society of Canada Inc.,
		Manitoba Chanter

		HEUT PODG CHEP SEL
Bill Goddard	-	Crossroads Resource Group
Letty Last	-	Recycling Council of Manitoba
Dennis Muldrew	-	Manitoba Naturalists Society
Brian Pannell	-	Manitoba Environmentalists Inc.
Anne Wieser	-	Concerned Citizens of Manitoba

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Concert. Le Rendez-vous, 768 Tache Street. Sponsored by the Manitoba Coalition of Organizations Against Apartheid. For further information call 783-6591.
- "Ingxoxo," a TV program about African issues. 9:00 p.m. on channel 11, west of the Red River. Host Nonqaba Msimang talks with Brazilian environmentalist Jose Lutzenberger.
- July 30 Garage Sale at 212 Sherburn St., south of Portage Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Citizens Concerned About Free Trade. Donations gratefully accepted. Call 453-5633.
- Aug. 18 Citizens Concerned About Free Trade are sponsoring a speaker and question period at the Centennial Library, 7 9 p.m. For further information contact Box 117, Winnipeg, R3C 2G1 or phone 453-5633.
- Aug. 23-24 Focus on Water: Key to Life Conference. Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Keynote Speaker, Mr. Michael Keating. For further information contact Janet Galger, Secretary, 5938 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Sask., S4T 1C8. Tel: (306)545-3768 (res)/(306) 545-5141 (bus).
- Aug. 28 The 2nd Green Party of Canada Gathering/Convention. Camp "Kwomais" Sept. 2 White Rock, British Columbia.
- Sept. 17 An all-day forum on Free Trade. Sponsored by the Manitoba Coalition Against Free Trade. For further info call 255-4050.
- Toward Sustainable Recycling Tools for Progress. Seventh National Recycling Congress will take place in St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact Linda Craig, Lawrence & Craig Inc., P.O. Box 40244, 320 S.W. Stark, #411, Portland, OR 97240.
- Oct. 12-15 A National Seminar on the Law and the Environment: Problems of Risk and Uncertainty. Halifax, Nova Scotia. For further information contact the Network office.
- Oct. 25-27 10TH Canadian Waste Management Conference. Winnipeg. For further information contact Dave Thompson at the Manitoba Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, 945-7083.
- Oct. 28-30 Tentative dates for a joint prairie meeting of the Manitoba Environmental Network, the Saskatchewan Eco-Network, and the Alberta Environmental Network to be held in Saskatchewan. For further information contact the Network office at 956-1468.
- Nov. 19 Manitoba Council for International Cooperation Fall Conference on Environment and Development. For further information contact Sari at MCIC, 786-2106.
- Nov. 26 Marquis Project, Third Annual Global Agricultural Issues
 Conference. Brandon, Manitoba. For further information contact The
 Marquis Project at 200, 107 7th Street, Brandon, R7A 3S5, Tel:
 (204) 727-5675.



C.P. 236, Succursale Snowdon Montréal, Québec H3X 3T4

New regulations, intended to promote food irradiation, have been proposed in the Canada Gazette of June 4, 1988. There is a sixty-day period for public comments before these regulations will be introduced in the House as an amendment to the Food and Drug Regulations (Schedule No. 668). The proposed regulations would reclassify food irradiation as a food process rather than as a food additive (as it is currently classified). Less stringent testing procedures and labelling requirements are in force for food processes as compared with food additives. This means a relaxation of testing and labelling standards. (If it doesn't make a difference, why bother doing it?)

It is proposed that all irradiated foods will have to be labelled as such. However, any irradiated components of food which do not exceed 10 percent of the total product can be incorporated without being identified as "irradiated" in the labelling. This is to avoid "attendant cost implications and technical difficulties which would be imposed on the industry" (Gazette, June 4). Think of it! Would such a policy be tolerated for food additives? This exemption can even be applied to several different food components, amounting to considerably more than 10 percent of the total. (And there's lots more; the Gazette devotes 13 pages to the topic of food irradiation!)

Representations from groups or individuals concerning the proposed regulations must be sent to: Chief, Manufactured Food Division, Consumer Products Branch, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0C9 within 60 days -

that is, before August 4, 1988.
Realistically, however, it would be helpful to make your views known also to the Prime Minister, leaders of the opposition parties, and appropriate other M.P.'s.

OUR COMMON FUTURE

cont. from page 1
ment agencies) clear concern was expressed by the audience that CIDA's
screening process is badly in need
of improvement. One of the key problems identified was the secrecy of
CIDA's Environmental Impact Assessments in developing countries.

Indonesian journalist Toeti Kakiailatu gave a moving report on "the price of progress" in her home country. She spoke of the dilemma in which urban Indonesians find themselves when jobs are limited and where the major industries are polluting their immediate environment. Another important issue for Indonesians is the population "transmigration" policy, a programme to move large segments of the population to the outer islands in order to relieve population pressure in Java. In achieving this goal, the govvernment has caused huge problems for soil fertility and deforestation in the outer islands.

The last speaker, Ralph Torrie, summed up some of the points made by the other panelists in calling for a redefinition of "the ecology of human society." The First World environmental movements have traditionally tended towards a "preservationist" focus, he said, rather than towards a view which includes social justice. According to Torrie, Gro Brundtland (chairperson of the WCED) challenges peoples and especially governments to live up to their rhetoric and to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable development principles. Torrie cited the "Free Trade" deal as a Canadian case in which an important

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC REGISTRY NETWORK

Under the new Environment Act, the Environment Department has created network of public registries.

According to the Department, these registries should facilitate public participation in the licencing process of new development proposals in Manitoba. Ostensibly, these registries should enable better public participation in the environmental decision-making process.

The registry itself will contain information relevant to proposals which are undergoing the licencing process. The main public registry is housed at the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health Resource Centre, Building 2, 139 Tuxedo Avenue, Winnipeg. A number of libraries, including Centennial Library in Winnipeg as well as libraries in Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Morden, Selkirk, The Pas, and Thompson are also participating in the Public Registry Network.

MEGA PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health has received a request from Canamax Resources Inc. to issue Stage 1 of a 2 Stage Environment Act Licence to develop a major potash mine in the Russel-Binscarth area of Manitoba. Despite the Class 3 designation, and the apparent commitment to meaningful public participation in the decision-making process, the Department has not yet indicated that it will conduct a public hearing of this proposal.

A feasability study has been completed by the company and is on file at the Resource Centre on Tudexo Avenue. It appears however, that a detailed environmental impact assessment has not been conducted.

The actual development proposal files will generally contain a number of things, including a summary of the development proposal, an environmental assessment report, and a copy of the licence or reasons why the licence has not been issued.

The Department will also be publishing a Public Registry Network Report on a monthly basis. This report is essentially a status report of proposals which have been received by the Department. The report will include an alphabetical listing of proposals (client name), type of operation, class, file number, and various other pieces of information pertaining to the status of the proposal.

Anyone interested in viewing a file or requiring further information can contact either Irene Casey at 945-7038 or Dianne Guinne at 945-7125 at the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health Resource Centre.

OUR COMMON FUTURE cont. from page 4

"economic" move will have serious implications both environmentally and socially in the area of aboriginal rights, for example. So far, our our government has refused to action where these concerns, in spite of its endorsement of the WCED report.

In the afternoon, a series of workshops were held on various environment/development topics including natives issues, energy and resources, and grassroots initiatives for change.

In general the consensus amongst participants seemed to be that Manitobans are ready for some real action on sustainable development - that we've talked about it for long enough, now is the time to bring about real change.

by Anne Wieser

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK CAUCUS REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT CAUCUS

The caucus is currently working on sustainable development issues, and has submitted a proposal for a meeting of Canadian ENGOs to critique the CCREM Task Force report and explore practical implementation strategies for the Brundtland Commission Report in Canada. A paper has been produced for the EARP consultation: " A Federal Environmental Assessment Process: The Core Elements."

Caucus Chair: Grant Copeland, Valhalla Wilderness Society, Box 84, New Denver, B.C. VOG 150.

ENERGY CAUCUS

The Energy Caucus was formed to respond to Energy, Mines and Resources review of energy policy, "Energy Options" consultation process. The Caucus has produced five papers:

Soft Energy Path 1988 Update(\$8.00)
Soft Energy Path - An Environmental
Perspective(\$4.00)
Energy Policy From an Environmental
Perspective - Core Elements(\$4.00)
Public Participation in Energy
Decision Making(\$4.00)
Energy Exports - An Environmental
Perspective(\$4.00)

Copies of these papers are available through the office of the Manitoba Environmental Network

The Caucus is now looking to respond to the Standing Committee on Environment and Forestry report entitled "High Level Radioactive Waste in Canada: The Eleventh Hour."

Caucus Chair: Brian Staszenski, Environment Resource Centre, 10511 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4S1. (403) 433-8711.

PESTICIDES INFORMATION ACCESS CAUCUS

The Pesticides Information Access
Caucus was formed to participate in
the multi-stakeholder consultations
being held by the Pest Management
Advisory Board on public access to
proprietary data on pesticides.

Caucus Chair: Lloyd Manchester, Earthcare, B.C.

NEWLY FORMED CAUCUSES:

FREE TRADE

A free trade caucus has been formed with the intent to exchange information on environmental implications of free trade and to plan additional strategies.

Interested persons are urged to contact Lynn Sabean, CEN Caucus Coordinator, for more information.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

A Sustainable Forestry Caucus has been formed with a mandate to identify the core elements of a sustainable forest policy, identify the barriers which impede this vision, and to develop a plan of action to counteract these barriers. A task force will work to respond to a recent report published by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers entitled "A National Forest Sector Strategy for Canada."

Caucus Chair: Gary Schneider, Natural History Society, R.R. #6, Cardigan, PEI, COA 1GO. (902) 838-2678.

cont. on page 10

THE GROUNDWATER POLLUTION PRIMER - PART FOUR

THE GROUNDWATER POLLUTERS

EMICAL SPILLS & HAZARDOUS WASTES

Another source of groundwater pollution is associated with the manufacture, storage, transportation, use, and eventual disposal of commercial chemicals. It is estimated that there are as many as 100,000 chemicals in general commercial use worldwide, a significant number of which are extremely toxic.

Examples of toxic chemicals include heavy metals such as chromium and cadmium, solvents such as the dry cleaning agent perchloroethylene (perc), and hydrocarbons such as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's).

Toxic chemicals pose a risk to groundwater when they spill or leak during transport or storage, are spewed into the environment through okestacks or out wastewater pes, or disposed of improperly.

Every year there are an average of 59 large chemical spills in the Maritimes (spills greater than 2,000 litres). Oil and petroleum products account for most of these spills; however PCB's, pesticides, industrial wastes and acids have also spilled.

An estimated 154,000 tonnes of hazardous wastes are generated annually in the Maritimes, including waste solvents, metals, and chemical sludges. Oil refineries, pulp and paper mills, and chemical plants generate 90 percent of this total. The rest is produced by thousands of small generators. These include neighbourhood businesses such as photo labs, dry cleaners, furniture finishers, garages or machine shops, stitutions such as universities d hospitals, and households.

Groundwater contamination from chemical spills and hazardous waste disposal has been extreme in a number of Maritime communities.

In New Brunswick, the most serious case of chemical contamination occurred in Fairvale, a bedroom community of Saint John. Perchloroethylene ("perc"), used in the neighbourhood dry cleaning establishment, contaminated groundwater up to a kilometre away. The water supplies of 180 families were poisoned, including the private wells of many new homes, and the communal wells of several apartment buildings. "Perc" had leaked into the soil surrounding the dry cleaner from drums of the chemical stored outside. The ultimate and costly solution was to hook the affected, people up to the municipal supply of a nearby town.

In Amherst, Nova Scotia two municipal wells have been contaminated by both "perc" and trichloroethylene (TCE). The likely sources are a dry cleaning establishment and metal finishing plant in the town. One of the municipal wells has been abandoned because of the contamination. TCE has also contaminated municipal wells in New Minas and Truro.

In some cases the potential for groundwater contamination is serious, but extensive monitoring has not yet been carried out.

Due to poor waste management practices, wood preserving plants in Newcastle, New Brunswick and Truro, Nova Scotia have polluted the surrounding soil with dioxins and PAH's. Dioxins and PAH's are resistant to degradation and will persist in soil

cont. on page 8

cont. from page 7

for years. It is not known whether the chemicals in the contaminated soil at either site have seeped into the groundwater below.

Over an 80 year period, coal-tar wastes from the coke ovens at the steel plant in Sydney, Nova Scotia have been discharged into a huge holding pond - the size of three city blocks. The Sydney tar pond contains half a million tonnes of coal-tar wastes - including 15 varieties of cancer-causing PAH's (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons) - which have been seeping into the underlying groundwater. Plans are in the works to excavate the hazardous wastes and examine the extent of contamination.

TOXIC CHEMICALS KNOWN TO POLLUTE GROUNDWATER

CHEMICAL	EXAMPLE USES	CANCER
TOLUENE 1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE 1,1,2-TRICHLOROETHANE TRICHLOROETHYLENE(TO	SOLVENTS, FUMIGANTS SOAPS, PAINT REMOVERS UPHOLSTERY, FABRICS PERFUME, DVE, SOLVEN PAINTS, COSMETICS FUMIGANTS, GASOLINE PAINT REMOVER, DEGREES EXC) DRY CLEWING, PEGREES PLASTICS, GASOLINE PESTICIDES, DEGREESE PESTICIDES, DEGREESE	TES TOP TOP TO THE RESERVENCE RES
ARSENIC CADMILIM CHROMIUM LEAD	ALLOYS, SOLDER, ELECTRO ALLOYS, BATTERIES, PAIN ALLOYS, COATINGS, PAIN ALLOYS, BATTERIES, GA	75 75 7

SEWERS AND SEPTIC TANKS

Of all the sources of groundwater contamination, sewers and septic systems receive the least attention, yet they pose a serious threat. Whatever is flushed down the drain is carried underground where it can leak directly into the soil and contaminate groundwater.

Traditionally, the concern about sewage leakage has been contamination by bacteria and nitrates.

However, sewage carries with it a toxic brew of commercial chemicals from household solvents to laboratory chemicals. An increasing number of industries are also disposing of their wastes into municipal sewers instead of dicharging them into nearby bodies of water.

There are about two million septic systems in Canada, over 300,000 of which are in the Maritimes. In most cases those with septic systems also rely on nearby wells, so the potential for drinking water contamination is great.

Theoretically, sewage systems in towns and cities should be less of a threat than septic tanks because they are supposed to be watertight, but leakage of sewage into the ground is common. If the aquifer that feeds a municipal water supply lies below the maze of sewer lines underlying the community, it could be receiving a steady stream of contaminants.

Studies by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment have found that
35 to 40 percent of the wells surveyed in neighbourhoods on septic
systems, had been contaminated by
household sewage. In Yorke Pointe,
P.E.I. the wells of an entire
neighbourhood were polluted by
nearby septic tanks.

Source: The Groundwater Pollution Primer. Conservation Council.



CITIZENS WIN ALTERNATIVE TO MALATHION

East Vancouver residents recently defeated a proposal by Parks Board aff to spray malathion in their ighbourhood to eliminate an infestation of oak ribbed casemakers. A local resident, Stephanie Boggan, contacted WCELA for assistance. WCELA referred the residents to the Bio-Integral Resource Centre in Berkeley, California (phone: (415)524-2567) and to the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides in Eugene, Oregon (phone: (503)344-5044).

Both these organizations provided Ms. Boggan with information about biological alternatives to malathion such as Bacillus Thurungiensis. B.T. is a biological control which is a substitute for toxic pesticides, and is useful in dealing with infestations of casemakers. The Bio-Integral Resource Centre gave Ms. Boggan the address of B.C. suppliers of B.T., plus other essential information.

In addition, the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides sent materials to Ms. Boggan detailing accidents caused by malathion. In one case malathion

FORM

REGISTRATION

STICIDE

escaped into a school and made approximately 200 students sick, leading to some hospitalizations. The Parks Board had been informed that the residue of malathion was not long-lasting. However, Ms. Boggan obtained material which indicated that if malathion is mixed with water the pesticide might remain active for approximately four months.

Last year the Parks Board adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy which stated that chemical controls should only be used after alternative controls (including biological controls) had been tried. The residents argued that the Parks Board had not yet tried biological controls, such as B.T., and therefore to spray malathion at this time would be to violate Parks Board policy.

The Board agreed with the residents, and expressed displeasure at the fact that the proposed spraying program would have put it in violation of its own policy. This incident is a good example of how active citizens can ensure that environmentally sound policies are actually implemented.

Source: West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation Newsletter. Spring 1988.

If you do not register your opposition in writing each year, City Council assumes you approve of its mosquito fogging program despite its ineffectiveness, high cost, and probable health damage.
Please clip out the following and send it to: Insect Control Branch, 3 Grey Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2L IV2
You might wish to send a separate registration for each family member.
(Information and/or more forms call 338-1740)
To the Insect Control Branch:
Please register my opposition to residential fogging. Do not fog or spray near my residence. Thank you.
Date
Name:
Address
Comments:
Signature:

cont. from page 6

WILDERNESS CAUCUS

Anyone interested in participating in a newly developing Wilderness Caucus is advised to contact John Barker of the Manitoba Environmental Network, P.O. Box 3125, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4E6, (204) 956-1468 or Kevin McNamee of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, 160 Bloor St. East, Suite 1150, Toronto, Ontario, 4W 1B9.

The caucus is considering a national awareness campaign on wilderness issues. Atlantic representation is required.

CANADIAN COALITION FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO PESTICIDES

The Canadian Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides has been formed with its first campaign; "How to get our lawns off drugs."

Caucus Chair: not yet appointed

For more information on how to get involved on any of the above listed caucuses contact:

Lynn Sabean
Caucus Coordinator
Canadian Environmental Network
P.O. Box 1289, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5R3
(613) 563-2078

4th Biennial Conference

HOPE FOR THE EARTH

JUNE 1989

Managua, Nicaragua

"Olaf Palme" Convention Centre

Congress Contacts

Canadian Environmental Network P.O. Box 1289, Station B Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R3

Earth Island Centre 300 Broadway, Suite 28 San Francisco, California U.S.A. 94133

