

DRAFT ACT GENERATES WIDESPREAD CRITICISM

by Anne Lindsey

On a typically desultory day last August, the Provincial government, quietly and without fanfare, released its White Paper on the Sustainable Development Act, a piece of work which the government hopes will become the first legislation of its kind in North America, the culmination of its attempts to position itself as a green leader in "a new way of doing business".

According to the 1986 World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), Sustainable Development is "development which meets the needs of today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs". It's a laudable goal, and likely one with which most people would agree: people everywhere have basic needs for food, water, shelter, employment, a healthy natural environment, dignity...and these needs will not change over the generations. It follows that we today (government, industry, individuals) must do everything in our power to ensure that these needs are met.

But is this draft Act something which will allow Manitoba to actually implement Sustainable Development? The preliminary answer in some parts of the community is a resounding no. In fact, some believe that as it now stands, this Draft Act could have at least two very negative impacts: 1. it could be a backward step for environmental protection in this province, and 2. it could place Manitoba literally back in the dark ages of democratic participation in decision-making.

While we may all agree that we must have "environmentally-sound economic development", it is how we get to this goal that is a matter of debate. For some, "sustained economic growth" is the cornerstone, resulting in a kind of downward trickle of wealth which will allow us to protect our environment. For example, the former Executive Director of the Province's Sustainable Development Co-ordination Unit, Robert Sopuck, was fond

of saying that the proposed Act would be "unabashedly pro-development"....For others, the issue is about our learning (or more accurately, perhaps, re-learning) how to "develop sustainability". In other words, adopting, promoting, and supporting lifestyles and modes of production which are mindful of the capacities of the Earth's, and human, resources. The discussion which circles around "sustainability" is exciting and challenging, but it is far from settled.

The Draft Act attempts to meet the implementation challenge with a series of "Principles and Guidelines". These include Stewardship, Shared Responsibility, Waste Minimization, Global Responsibility, Public Participation, Efficient Use of Resources... (There are sixteen in all). Again, they sound good, but in the White Paper they are followed by a disclaimer in Appendix 1 which reads "The Principles and Guidelines are general in nature and must be interpreted with common sense and discretion and are not intended or applied as a mandatory regulation or a rigid standard". This gives one the feeling that the government is

not really serious about what it is doing. Manitoba Eco-Network Chairperson, Nick Carter, points out that the Draft Act would immediately have more credibility if the Principles were transformed into Objectives and Goals, against which government decisions were measureable and appealable.

For many in the environmental community, the government has already eroded any sustainable development credibility by allowing developments such as the BFI landfill and the Louisiana-Pacific Mill to be built. The Draft Act only adds insult to injury by emasculating the Environment Act, when what it could really benefit from is strengthening. As an example, the Manitoba Environmental Council (a government appointed Advisory Council to the Minister of Environment) believes that the Act should

See **INDUSTRY** page 10



Volume 6, Number 5
November/December 1996

(date of issue: December 1996)

Eco-Journal

is published six times per year by the
Manitoba Eco-Network/Reseau Ecologique
du Manitoba Inc. at
2-70 Albert Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1E7
(204)947-6511 or fax (204) 947-6514.
Email men @web.net.

Editor

Anne Lindsey

Contributors this issue:

Tom Goldtooth, Ria Julien, Anne Lindsey,
Rosemary Trachsel

Layout

Jennifer Faubert

Manitoba Eco-Network Executive

Chair

Nick Carter - Manitoba Naturalists Society

Vice-Chair

Harry Mesman - MB Federation of Labour

Secretary

Glen Koroluk - Resource Conservation MB

Treasurer

Steve Rauh - Harvest Collective

Individual Subscriptions to **Eco-Journal**
are available at a cost of \$20 or as part of a
supporting membership to the Manitoba Eco-
Network at a cost of \$25. Group membership
dues are \$40. Advertising rates are available
upon request.

The opinions expressed by contributors are
their own and do not represent the views of the
Manitoba Eco-Network or its member groups.

Canada Publication Mail Sales Agreement
0530212. Postage paid at Winnipeg, MB

Produced with desktop publishing equipment
supplied by Canada Trust Friends of the
Environment Foundation and Investors Group.

CHRISTMAS L.I.T.E CAMPAIGN

Once again, the Christmas L.I.T.E campaign is offering Winnipeggers a tangible way to support community economic development in the Inner City, when making charitable contributions in the Holiday season. LITE (which stands for Local Investment Towards Employment) is organized by an independent group of volunteers who are concerned about growing poverty in the inner city.

It is an initiative which helps to address the root causes of poverty and to help underdeveloped communities become self reliant. Here's how it works: monetary donations (which are tax receiptable) are utilized to purchase items at Neechi Foods, Andrews Street Catering Co-operative and the Native Women's Transition Centre, for Christmas hampers which are then distributed to the needy. Alternatively, organizations (or school classes, businesses or families) purchase their own hamper items at Neechi Foods. By supporting these co-operative community development enterprises in the Inner City, money is kept circulating in the local economy, in contrast to purchases made at large chain stores, which results in cash leaving the city, and often, Manitoba. This campaign helps to support employment opportunities for people who need them most. The LITE committee has an excellent short video available for loan to groups wishing to learn more about the LITE campaign, and about community economic development. Call Tom at CEDA: 947-6940 or Russ at Assiniboine Credit Union: 958-8756, for more information, or to borrow the video.

Financial contributions may be left at any branch of Assiniboine Credit Union, or at Neechi Foods, 325 Dufferin Ave, or be mailed to Christmas LITE, 60 Maryland St. Winnipeg, R3G 1K7.

Also noteworthy: Neechi has a fine selection of handcrafts, wild rice and berry products, which make excellent holiday gifts!

ECJ

Network Award Winner Makes Who's Who in Women

Special congratulations to the University of Winnipeg's Dr. Eva Pip, recipient of one of Manitoba Eco-Network's 1996 Environmental Awards, whose excellent work has won her a place in the Who's Who in Women, published by Cambridge University and featuring the world's top 6,000 women in science!

1996-1997

Eco-Network Steering Committee

Lyle Barkman - Organic Producers Association of Manitoba
Dennis Bayomi - Winnipeg Vegetarian Association
Nick Carter - Manitoba Naturalists Society
Lindy Clubb - Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Laverne Dalglish - National Energy Conservation Association
Val Klassen - Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Glen Koroluk - Resource Conservation Manitoba
Harry Mesman - Manitoba Federation of Labour
Karen Turner - Sierra Club, Agassiz Group
Steve Rauh - Harvest Collective
Harvey Williams - Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems

TAIGA BIOLOGICAL STATION AT RISK

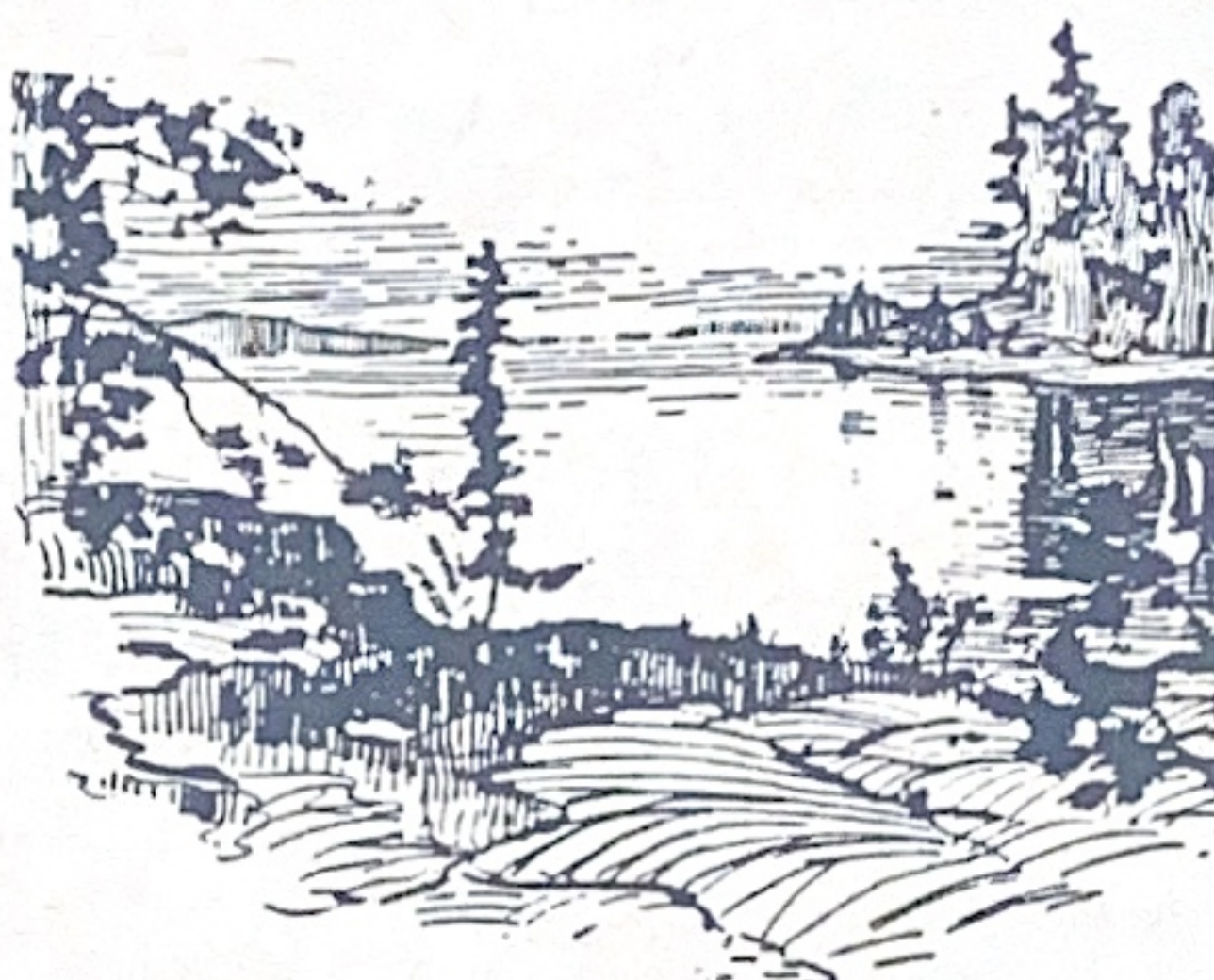
by Anne Lindsey

With the retirement of Dr. Bill Pruitt from the University of Manitoba Department of Zoology on July 1, a unique research and teaching resource in Canada's Boreal Forest may be in jeopardy. The Taiga Biological Station (TBS) was founded in 1973 by Dr. Pruitt as an Institute of the U of M dedicated to the study of the organisms of the taiga (the northern coniferous forest or "boreal forest") and their ecology. TBS is north of Wallace Lake, on the borders of Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park, a location chosen for its almost intact complement of pre-Contact fauna. The wolverine was the only animal absent, but it has reappeared in recent years. The station has survived financially primarily through research grants and donations. Dr. Pruitt is hoping that some kind of permanent funding can be secured to ensure the continuation of the Station and its work.

It would not be an understatement to say that the TBS has made great contributions to the study of ecology in Canada. No less than 9 Masters theses, a PhD, and many publications have emerged from the work carried out at the station. In addition, it is used for field study by students in mammalogy and boreal ecology, for long-term studies by biologists from the Museum of Man and Nature, and for yearly field trips by groups from Outward Bound and St. John's Ravenscourt. Studies undertaken at the station include those on woodland caribou, beaver, wolves, marten and fisher.

The extensive forest fire which burned through the Wallace Lake area in 1980 had a devastating effect on the study area, including some of the station's buildings, but Dr. Pruitt and his students turned the crisis into an

opportunity, treating the "massive changes in vegetation and animals as a natural experiment".



Interestingly, researchers found no immediate post-fire differences in the behaviour of the local Aikens-Wallace Lake caribou herd, even though the top 10 cm. of their habitat floor essentially went "up in smoke". The animals even continued to walk their trails through the burned areas until 5 years after the burn when the deadfall became just too tangled for them to navigate. Since 1985, there are no more than 12 herd members, down from a population of 50 to 60 animals in the 1960's.

While shovelling out from the past weekend's blizzard, I was reminded of what Dr. Pruitt describes as "the most exciting scientific work" at the station: the study of sub-nivean (ie. below snow) Carbon Dioxide. It was found that CO₂ is generated by a number of sources, and varies with different types of snow

cover, vegetation types and topographies. The work, undertaken by Cheryl Penny (now with Parks Canada), described a new dimension for the ecological niche of Canada's most common mammal, the Red-Backed Vole. Penny found that when the concentration of CO₂ reached 0.07%/vol, the voles would move to another area, not returning until levels declined.

Relatively little scientific information is available about Boreal Forest ecology, which makes the Taiga Biological Station's contributions especially valuable. With the increased levels of tree cutting now taking place in the Boreal Forest, it is essential to maintain the few places where this subject is studied. But financial difficulties are not the only problem the station may face. The expansion of clearcutting activity on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg will undoubtedly also have an effect on the ecology of

See VOLUNTEER page 11

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE BREAD Co. and Deli Inc.

A neighborhood bakery specializing in breads, cinnamon buns, muffins, cakes, tortes, and pies.

All made with organically grown Prairie grains ground right at the bakery.

859 Westminister Ave. Winnipeg
783-5097

FUNDRAISING??

Keep 100% of all funds raised through collecting reusable floral containers.



- no selling of any product required
- environment benefits

A & C Recycling
& Outfitters
255-3874

Special thanks are due to Jennifer Faubert, who once again volunteered her skills and services in the layout of this issue.

Monday, December 9, 1:00 to 9:00pm. Public Meeting on the Draft Sustainable Development Act, hosted by Province of Manitoba and the Manitoba Round Table, Brandon. Call 945-1124 for info.

Wednesday, December 11, 1:00 to 6:30pm. Public Meeting on the Draft Sustainable Development Act, hosted by Province of Manitoba and the Manitoba Round Table, Thompson. Call 945-1124 for info.

Thurs. Dec. 12, 1-9:00 pm, Public Meeting on the Draft Sustainable Development Act. Hosted by the Province of Manitoba and the Manitoba Round Table, Convention Centre, Winnipeg. Call 945-1124 for details.

Under the B for BINGO

An enthusiastic thank you to our bingo crews for October and November. The following Eco-Network supporters have impressed with their ability to stay on their toes and make the evening enjoyable for all the rest of us ... while earning \$4500!!!

Sara Aysan, Deiter Bruning, Al Calman, Irene Costa, Eve Dillistone, Karen Emberley, Andrew Fraser, Magu Githongo, Sandy Hurwitz, Darrell Keating, Val Klassen, Tanya McGonigal, Alex Man, Kemlin Nembhard, Rick Penner, John Prentice, Cal Schultz, Rosemary Trachsel, Dave Turner, Karen Turner and Harvey Williams

The Eco-Network is currently experimenting with undertaking three bingo commitments this season as a means of bringing home much needed, and almost instant, cash. At the same time, we are grappling with the thorny issue of whether our actions endorse gambling and the ill it represents in our society when we take this 'easy' money. Eco-Network members who have strong feelings one way or the other on this topic are encouraged to share their thoughts with us by calling Anne or Jan at the office.

And under the A for annual appeal...

Muchas Gracias to all our members and supporters who have given so generously to this year's Annual Appeal. Charitable Receipts will be mailed out soon. And for those who haven't responded yet - there is still time! Your donation will help to keep the Eco-Network working!

ECJ

WHAT'S HAPPENIN'??

Friday, December 13, 1:00 to 9:00pm. Public Meeting on the Draft Sustainable Development Act, hosted by Province of Manitoba and the Manitoba Round Table, Winnipeg. Call 945-1124 for info.

Sunday, December 15. Winnipeg Vegetarian Association. Pre-Christmas Pot-Luck dinner, Robert A. Steen Community Centre. 980 Palmerston Ave. Doors open 5:30pm.

Monday, December 23, Dec. 27, 30, 31, Jan. 2 or 3: Fort Whyte Centre Winter Day Camps for children ages 6 to 10 years. Members \$16/day; non-members \$19.50/day. Advance registration required. Call 989-8355.

Friday, December 27. CHO!CES Christmas Party at Cafe de Todos (the Underground Cafe). Call 944-9408 for info.

Monday, January 6. Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program: Thor Thorleifson on "Soil, Water, and Habitat Management" Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 7:30pm

Monday, January 20. Manitoba Naturalists Society Indoor Program: Ted McLachlan on "Nature and Parks, Parks and Nature" Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 7:30pm.

Sunday, January 19, Fort Whyte Centre, Guided Nature Hike. 11:00am. Call 989-8355 for info.

Friday, January 24. CHO!CES Cafe de Todos Coffeehouse at the Underground Cafe, speakers to be announced.

Monday, January 27, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba: Question and Answer Session on the Transportation of High-Level Nuclear Waste, with Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, Radioactive Waste Transportation Consultant, University of Winnipeg, 12 - 1:00pm. Call 452-2352 for info.

Monday, January 27. Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Public Hearings on AECL's Concept for the Disposal of Nuclear Waste, The Club, Fort Garry Hotel, 2 - 5pm and 7 - 10pm. Call (819)953-0179 (collect) to register.

Tuesday, January 28. CEAA Public Hearings on AECL Waste Disposal Concept continue. The Club, Fort Garry Hotel. 9am to noon and 2 - 5pm.

ECJ

 **erickson
motors ltd.**
MAJOR AND MINOR AUTO REPAIRS

194 McPHILLIPS STREET
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3E 2J9

772-7992

YOUTH CAUCUS TO WORK ON SUSTAINABILITY

by Ria Julien
Youth Caucus Representative

One weekend in late September in Winnipeg a group of youth came together, many for the first time, as participants in the Youth Activists' Workshop. It was this very event which served to facilitate the creation of the Manitoba Eco-Network Youth Caucus, or MENYC (said 'menace'), as we are commonly known.

Previously, attempts were made, unsuccessfully, to get such a group off the ground but on this occasion timing was in our favour. With Winnipeg hosting both the North American Forest Forum and the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development's North American Public Hearing, the Youth Caucus was able to test the waters while providing what was often the sole voice of youth at these international forums.

These events proved to be a great opportunity for the Youth Caucus to form ties with youth from both Mexico and other parts of Canada.

It was through these newly formed ties that I found myself on the road to Ottawa with a group of relative strangers merely hours after the closing of the WCFSD's Public Hearings. The Canadian Environmental Network's Youth Caucus was hosting a conference, and I was travelling to Ottawa with representatives of a member

group, who were briefly stopping for the conference on their return trip to the maritimes.

The Ottawa Conference itself lasted two full days and was in contrast to the grand international meetings held here in Winnipeg. Only when I arrived did I realize it was composed of a small group of regional representatives, myself being one. The conference aimed to plan the direction of the CENYC over the next ten months leading up to the RIO + 5 Conference on Sustainability in New York.

During our sessions we became acquainted with the structure of the CEN, and updated on activity in other regions. We also created specific mandates for upcoming international forums and laid the groundwork for a campaign on sustainability, encompassing action on a number of different levels.

Much preliminary work was accomplished at this meeting but it also served to illustrate the relationship between grassroots and larger level actions. Although 'high level' planning may facilitate the creation of a large scale national campaign, ultimately grassroots actions provide the backbone of a successful project on any level. It is our hope that MENYC will become the focal point for grassroots youth actions on the environment in Manitoba.

ECJ

Now Open!

Mondragón
Bookstore & Coffee House

Specializing in:

- Vegetarian & Vegan Food
- Ecology
- Indigenous Issues
- Radical Politics
- Human Rights
- Animal Liberation
- Gay & Lesbian
- Alternative Fiction
- Children's Books
- Posters & Gift Items

946-5241

Open: Mon - Wed 10 am - 8 pm
Thurs - Sat 10 am - Midnight

We do Special Orders...

91 Albert Street
(in Winnipeg's Exchange District)

Search the Green Lane for Environmental Information!



<http://www.mb.doe.ca>

- Weather
- Climate
- Ozone Depletion
- Wildlife
- Air Quality
- Flood Damage
- Habitat Protection
- Legislation/Policies
- Science & Research
- Water Legislation
- Water Monitoring
- Action 21
- Pollution Prevention
- Publications/Brochures
- Environmental Protection
- Environmental Assessment

Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

Canada

Andrews Street FAMILY CENTRE

Catering

Assorted lunch and snack trays, soup, stew, bannock and lasagna

220 ANDREWS ST.,
WINNIPEG, MB
R2W 4T1

PH. 589-1721
FAX 589-7354

Native Women's TRANSITION CENTRE

Catering

Traditional Aboriginal food and other items for feasts, meetings and other events.

105 AIKENS ST.,
WINNIPEG, MB
R2W 4E6

PH. 989-8240
FAX 586-1101



CHRISTMAS L·I·T·E

X-MAS HAMPERS THAT BUILD
JOBS FOR INNER CITY RESIDENTS!

How?

- Make your hamper purchases at Neechi Foods!
- Send a cheque to: Christmas L.I.T.E., 60 Maryland Street, Winnipeg, MB R3G 1K7
- Make a Christmas LITE donation at any branch of Assiniboine Credit Union or at other participating Credit Unions.

Donations will be used to purchase hamper items at Neechi Foods and at the catering businesses run by Native Women's Transition Centre and Andrews Street Family Centre. Donations are tax receivable.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Neechi Foods COMMUNITY STORE

325 DUFFERIN AVE. (BETWEEN SALTER & MAIN)
SUN 12-5 MON-SAT 10-6 • PH. 586-5597 FAX 589-4862

- ♦ Hand-crafted Moccasins
- ♦ Beautifully illustrated, Aboriginal children's books
- ♦ Community development & child development books
- ♦ Kagiwiosa Manomin Wild Rice



- ♦ Fresh frozen Wild Blueberries
- ♦ Oven-fresh Bannock
- ♦ Specialty Jams
- ♦ Christmas Turkey Specials
- ♦ Gift certificates

• MASTERCARD • VISA • INTERAC

100% WORKER OWNED & OPERATED

This page courtesy of

ASSINIBOINE  CREDIT UNION

Community Development 958-8756

**"Community
Partnerships"**



Home Made Music



Great selection of compact discs, cassettes, books, and instrument accessories.

264 TACHÉ
AVENUE,
WINNIPEG
231-1377

• Folk • Jazz • Blues • Cajun • Zydeco • Aboriginal • Bluegrass • Reggae • Celtic

What's in a Name?

by Rosemary Trachsel

What's in a name? This is a question that the RCM (Recycling Council of Manitoba) pondered for several months before deciding finally to become Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) in June. It's been an involving process!

I was first introduced to some reasons for a name change when participating in a tag day for RCM in the winter of '95-'96.

In spite of the overwhelming sense of humiliation with which I was left after that experience, (I swear never to pass by another person with a box tied around her/his neck without giving them at least a quarter) I did notice one or two useful things. One: people weren't interested in giving money for a tag day to a forty-something woman for a cause they'd never heard of. Two: it was often assumed from the name that RCM was only a recycling organization or a recycling depot. Name recognition was in short supply!

Their response to the fact that RCM stood for Recycling Council of Manitoba was often: "I recycle already." Or, "Isn't the city doing that? Why do you want money?" Most folks didn't have time to wait for the full explanation.

RCM was first organized in 1985. Although its earliest projects involved recycling aluminum cans and newspapers, it has always been concerned with the larger issues of waste reduction, not just recycling. The aim has been to be an education resource for the public in terms of the three Rs, but the practical project and revenue generating aspect of the RCM until now has always involved solid waste management and recycling. With the recent inception of curbside collection in the City of Winnipeg as a result of the Manitoba Product Stewardship program, it was time for RCM to refocus and once again become a leading edge organization in the arena of waste reduction of all types (i.e. wasted resources as well as solid waste).

Charting a new course has been a lengthy process. After many months of general discussion, this drive for change began in earnest last winter when a membership wide meeting was held to look at the pros and cons of a new name. The notes I have from that surprisingly harmonious meeting illustrate the introspection and analysis that is the companion of most renewal:

It was concluded that changing the name would: "create a focus beyond recycling to reuse and reduction", "broaden the member base," "provide an opportunity for publicity," "broaden funding opportunities, and "provide an opportunity to match the existing mission statement more closely".

Keeping the name as it was, on the other hand, would maintain "existing credibility," preclude "infringement on other enviro groups mandates," and "save time and effort."

The consensus from the group which has never been known for complacency: a name change was in order. On that night, the Renewal Committee was struck, and the process continued.

With the first meeting of the renewal committee, it was decided that we needed to find a new name, and then a new logo to go with it. Or was it the other way round? After some discussion, a plan emerged. The necessary revisions to the mission statement and guiding principles would come

first, then the new name, and finally the logo.

Following some intense meetings, the modifications and additions to the mission statement and guiding principles were completed as far as the Renewal Committee was concerned, and a list of suggested names was compiled. The proposed modifications were sent out to respected members of the eco community for their input. These were returned, reworked and broadcast again. After incorporating another round of amendments, the mission statement, principles and name change were submitted to and successfully ratified at the AGM on June 3, 1996. A new logo is soon to follow.

WHAT NOW FOR THE NEW RCM?

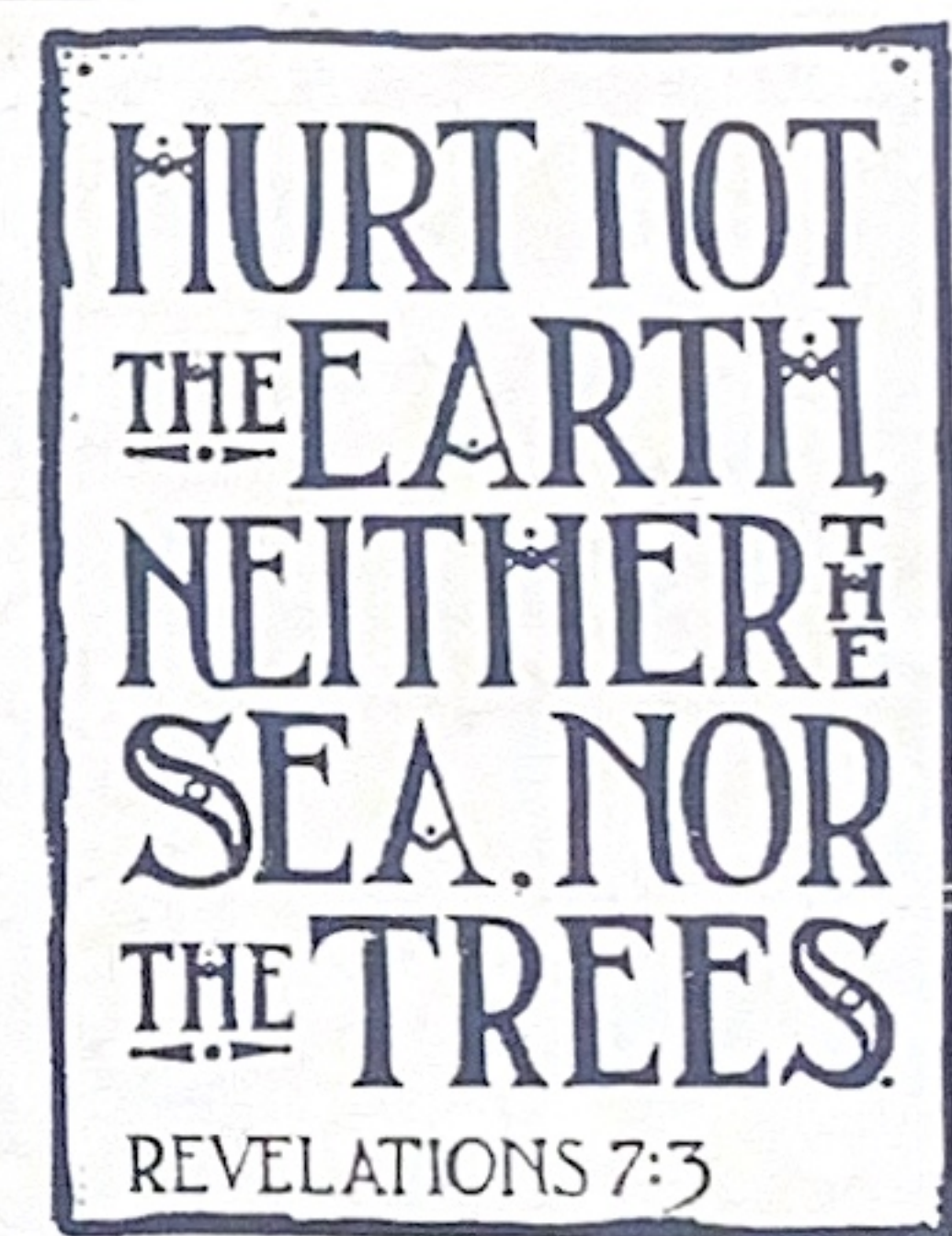
Moving beyond solid waste issues allows a much broader scope for the new RCM. According to Alex Morrison, RCM President, "We're free to resume our leadership role advocating a wider vision of resource conservation, ecological sustainability and waste reduction".

"We've always taken the position that recycling was about the conservation of resources not landfill availability or tipping fees. Now that many Manitobans accept this, we want to bring home the connection between their larger consumption patterns and resource use in general".

One of RCM's first forays into this broadened terrain is the development of a workshop series tentatively entitled, "TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING".

Focusing on practical changes an individual or household can undertake, its goal is to demystify complex issues and encourage meaningful change at the grassroots level.

Concurrently, RCM will continue to lobby government to ensure ecological sustainability supersedes sustainable development.



Dreamweaver



NICE CLOTHES
FOR
NICE PEOPLE!

661 Corydon ave
Open Mon-Sat 11am-6pm

ECJ

FOREST FORUM GOES BEYOND THE TREES

Social justice a key component of discussions
excerpts from a presentation by Tom Goldtooth

The North American Forest Forum, co-sponsored by a coalition of groups in Winnipeg (including the Eco-Network) all with national affiliations, brought together activists from across the continent to discuss and strategize about forest trade related issues in the region.

While there were not as many participants from Mexico and the US as organizers had hoped (a case of quality, not quantity, since those who were in attendance added a great deal to the proceedings), there was nonetheless an interesting mix of people, including those from just about every part of Canada.

The event succeeded in meeting one of its key goals - that of developing mutual understanding. There was a refreshing atmosphere of trust and honesty in the "focus groups" set up to explore issues highlighted by the speakers. And the speakers themselves, Elizabeth May, Tom Goldtooth, Jack Blacksmith, Bill Pruitt, (and in the evening forum), Yoichi Koruda, Maude Barlow, Ted Moses and Robert Kennedy, Jr. gave informative and stimulating presentations.

Of particular interest, the Forum went far beyond discussion of "forestry" as indeed it was intended. Discussions reflected a broad understanding that forest issues are about much more than trees.

Following are some excerpts from the presentation of Tom Goldtooth, a traditional bundle keeper of the Mde-wakanton Dakota in Minnesota. Tom is also National Co-ordinator (in the US) of the Indigenous Environmental Network, an alliance of Indigenous Peoples of North America concerned about the protection of the sacredness of Mother Earth and aboriginal teaching.

Speaking of the creation of the Indigenous Environmental Network:

..."Our people of colour, our native people were the last to get cleaned up. When it comes to the management or lack of management of our natural resources, whether its building a dam, a hydro dam, diverting a river, forestry management practices, mining, somehow there weren't those environmental protection mechanisms in place, no-one was watching the shop. Those things that the general population in the States take for granted. "Oh yah, we've got the EPA, watching over us, we got some laws". But someone left out the people of colour, especially our indigenous nations.

In fact, when these federal laws were developed down there they left out of the legislative language: Tribes, Governmental Units, Sovereign Nations. So these nations were never able to get the grants and the technical assistance

like the state governments were getting in the early 70's, to develop environmental infrastructures. Things that a lot of you take for granted. Those mechanisms that come into play to protect the water and air, drinking water, conservation laws.

Somehow in the 70's and the 80's our Tribal Nations didn't have anything in place. About the same time there were a lot of government grants, a lot of governmental initiatives, a lot of corporate development proposals coming



Tom Goldtooth

photo by Gilbert Dong

in to develop our resources. There was a lot of that going on, but no protection mechanisms..." "In fact, a lot of the developments that took place, are now in the 90's starting to bubble up. No environmental assessments were being done in those years, no impact statements. A lot of these things that we are just now beginning to realize. It was economically driven.

And even some of our dads, some of our uncles, our aunts, our moms, our brothers and our sisters were also being pulled. As you hear, we're in dire straights economically. Jobs and housing and health and education. These issues that are the impacts of colonialism.

These proposals to develop our resources are very tempting to take up, especially when its going to bring some money to our tables.

So this was during the time... when we were organizing the network. We said, "we didn't want another organization, we've got enough Indian organizations in the States. That's why we say we're a network, we're an alliance. Someone said, "what's your membership". We're not into the membership game. We're into confederacies and alliance building, the sacred fire.

See WHOEVER page 9

Whoever controls the land, controls the people

From page 8

So this Environmental Justice Network, we form alliances with the Afro-American people. And we say, "we understand racism". Yeah, definitely. We understand about Chicano people, Mexican-Americans. Working the fields, being contaminated by pesticides in the fields. And some of our own Native people are in those fields.

The Asian-Americans, people have a whole misconception about Asian-Americans. But in some of those pockets, especially Silicon Valley, the immigrants, the refugees working with those contaminated chips, those little computer chips...

We were crying, we were crying with each other because we heard stories from African-American people who are dying of respiratory illnesses and cancer, from cancer alley, 82 miles between Baton-Rouge, Louisiana, to New Orleans. Petrochemical plants. Cargill is one of those, producing chemicals.

Story after story, "our people are dying". Our people of colour are dying. And also we learned the poor white folk are dying, in the Appalachians, from the coal mines. So we understood that there was a connection with racism issues but also with poverty issues. But our issue was racist issues, and the policies and the way they have been developed and implemented on both sides of this border here. And it seems like its the same story in Canada. Our brothers and sisters have land claim issues. So down there in our environmental movement, its not just the environment. We're talking about legal and political issues...

Whoever controls the land, controls the people

...(I've talked to) immigrant farmers that came to Minnesota. A lot of them passing on, the elder ones. (They have) Certain times that they plant. Certain times that they put the fenceposts out there. Certain things that they remember from the old country. Maybe there's something still there, remaining in their culture.

They went through their own crusades in Europe. Something happened in Europe that took away these things that we have as Native people, these teachings. Something removed them from their Earth teachings. Something happened over there where the industries and kingdoms were created. And it had to do with whoever controls the people controls the land. Whoever controls the land controls the people.

And that was the same issue here. It's a foreign concept. A foreign concept for you people because you're all tribal people, somewhere in your own teachings. So we're all at this crossroads. Looking for answers, and a balance.

Now, with our people, we're just now beginning to get this strength back and wakening up. And we say, "we're

doing this ourselves. Let us do this ourselves". We may make some mistakes, but we're trying to do as best we can.

..."If you cut all the elder trees, who's left to teach the younger trees?" Over the years the tribe has gotten dependent on the income from those trees. To build the roads, to build infrastructure... so that is something that we are dealing with.

Coming full circle is my dream, what is it that the spirits want us to do? I don't have the answer. We're still struggling to find the answer. The Earth is going to start putting herself to right - at some point Earth is going to say "no more".

NAFF organizers are currently working on compiling proceedings of the conference. It is hoped that they will be available early in the New Year. The Eco-Network wishes to acknowledge the excellent work of Don Sullivan and Sacha Kopelow, conference co-ordinators, and Twilla McDonald, who stepped into the fray when Sacha returned to school. A complete list of conference endorsers, the team of volunteers, Steering Committee, participants and funders will appear in the Proceedings document. **ECJ**

877 WESTMINSTER AVE. 772-4359
HARVEST COLLECTIVE



LIVE IN THE PRESENT
THINK OF THE FUTURE
THINK ORGANIC
HARVEST ON CORYDON
(FORMERLY SUNFLOWER)
664 CORYDON AVE. 473-1459

Industry and Environmentalists united in concern

From page 1

Minister of Environment) believes that the Act should contain a definition of basic qualifications of people who will sit on a Commission for Sustainable Development, to ensure that they have both the experience and expertise necessary to evaluate proposals.

But the discontent about the Draft Act extends far beyond the environmental community. The proposed legislation is extremely far-reaching, and as it stands, would override countless pieces of legislation already in place, including the Municipal Act. It would have the effect of greatly eroding the power of the Municipal level of government, a fact that does not sit well with the Union of Manitoba Municipalities (UMM). Jerome Mauws, UMM's Executive Director, notes with some satisfaction that the very fact there is a Draft Act, instead of legislation already before the House, is due to the pressure exerted by UMM when they discovered the intentions of the legislation vis a vis the Municipal Act. Mauws says that Manitoba's municipalities will fight to preserve the powers of municipal government.

At the same time as it takes power away from the municipalities, the Draft Act ironically creates a whole new layer of bureaucracy to carry out "pre-development licensing" and sustainability assessments. The pre-licensing planning provisions serve to codify the kind of practice of which many were so critical during the licensing hearings for the BFI landfill: they have the effect of involving the government to such a great degree in a proponent's "testing of the water" (for instance, with government Technical Advisory Committees assisting the proponent even on issues of site selection), as to create at least an illusion of conflict of interest on the part of government. Many questions remain to be answered about this section, including who pays for the various activities undertaken by the

government at the request of the proponent, and what criteria will be in effect for the government to accept the proponent's pre-licensing public consultation activities as "equivalent public participation in development review".

And the Draft Act expands the discretionary powers of the the Minister of Environment, which, in the Environment Act, are already considerable. In fact, the overall thrust of the Draft Act is to centralize decision-making, and diminish the role of the public.

Industry, too, seems unhappy with the Draft Act. Gord Collis of the Canadian Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters (formerly the Manufacturing Association), feels that the Draft Act essentially breaks the necessary "social contract" between environmental groups, government and industry by creating possibilities for politicizing decisions. His concerns are identical to many of those raised by the environmental community: a lack of transparency and predictability in the decision-making process, an erosion of the checks and balances which currently exist, and lack of an effective appeal process for decisions.

Ed Huebert of the Manitoba Mining Association echoes these concerns, adding that many questions remain to be answered about how the Act would impact on mineral leases and their relationship to land tenure. The Mining Association is strongly committed to Sustainable Development and believes that an Act must draw upon earlier work in this field. As an example, Huebert points to the Whitehorse Mining Initiative, a comprehensive multistakeholder consultation between mining industry, environmental groups, first nations, organized labour and government which have led to a vastly improved understanding of commonalities, and commitment on the part of the Canadian Mining Association to Protected Area strategies.

It's not often that industry and environmentalists agree, but in this case, all are arguing for a fair and transparent process for evaluating developments, in which all stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved, and everyone knows at the outset where they stand, and what mechanisms exist for recourse and appeal.

From a legal perspective, the Draft Act leaves much to be desired. Several lawyers have commented on its awkwardness and its truly amazing supremacy over other legislation. "Consequential amendments" would be necessary for some 14 pieces of legislation according to the White Paper, and environmental lawyer Markus Bucharth says he suspects there would be "interactions with (other) existing laws which the Act's authors did not contemplate". There appears to be no provision for public input into the amending process for all of this law.

Bucharth also points to the great number of "privative clauses" contained within the Draft Act. (Privative clauses seek to restrict review of decisions by the Courts). He feels that these clauses will be a "magnet for litigation by both non-plussed environmentalists and refused proponents", but continues by noting that if the criteria for the exercise of Ministerial discretion are unknown and undefined (which is the case as the Draft Act now stands), no litigant could ever make a successful appeal anyway!

Bucharth says it's a truism amongst lawyers that a good law should make outcomes predictable and maintains that the proposed Act does not satisfy that criterion.

To its credit, the government has invited many concerned and interested parties, including the Eco-Network, to participate on an informal Advisory Committee to the Manitoba Round table on Environment and Economy, on the subject of the Draft Act. But many feel that the invitation is a case of too

See GOV"T page 11

Gov't urged to go slow

From page 10

little, too late. The Manitoba Environmental Council believes that the process of drafting an Act was flawed to begin with, because it excluded key groups such as municipalities, business, environmental and social groups. Also, the Advisory Committee is working within an artificially short time-frame. Two months, including the December holiday season, is simply inadequate for a meaningful consensus-building process on such a controversial and far-reaching issue.

The time constraint is due to the government's desire to introduce the Bill in the spring session of the Legislature, with likely passage next Fall.

While there seems to be a commitment amongst groups to provide the best input they can, the government might be well-advised to heed warning signals in the community, slow down

this process, and go back to the drawing board. Implementation of a sustainable development act we can all live with will be worth it.

ECJ

HOW SHOULD WE MANAGE NUCLEAR WASTE???

Make your views known on Atomic Energy Canada Limited's proposal to bury Canada's nuclear fuel waste in the Canadian Shield. Public hearings will be in Winnipeg at The Club, Hotel Fort Garry, 222 Broadway Ave.:

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1997
from 2 - 5 pm & 7 - 10 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1997
from 9 am - 12 & 2 - 5 pm

Registration is unnecessary but if you require a specific time to appear, call collect to Ghislaine Kerry at 1-819-953-0179 or Guy Riverin at 1-819-997-2244. For information or documents, call Jan Westlund at 204-947-6511.

IT'S A HOT ISSUE !!!

Volunteer support crucial in station maintenance

From page 3

the region. As a founding member of the Manitoba Environmental Council, and in his own right, Dr. Pruitt has spoken in defence of this land, calling the cutting and road building plans "unsustainable". He is particularly concerned about disturbances to the habitat of the Sasaginnigak herd of woodland caribou whose migration routes cross the planned cutting area. He points out that in contrast to burned over areas, caribou do not frequent clearcuts.

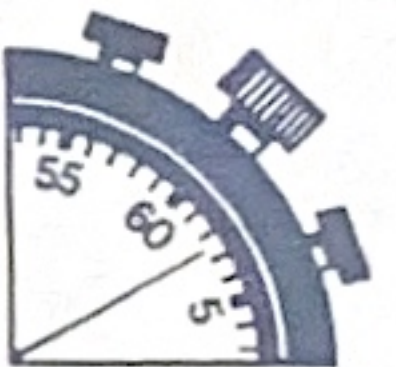
Over the years, the Station has been frugal with its finances. And Dr. Pruitt is quick to point out that a great many contributions are made by volunteers: everything from radio-collaring for mammal studies to cutting firewood and maintaining equipment and buildings. For long-term financial stability, he would ideally like to see a University Chair endowed in the Natural History of the Boreal Forest, which would include funding for ongoing research at the Station, but recognizing that this is an unlikely scenario, has been seeking Foundation funding - thus far with little success.

Individuals wishing to support the TBS may do so through the Manitoba Naturalists Society Scholarship Fund which helps to support the work of graduate students at the Station, or through the TBS Research Trust, administered by Fort Whyte Centre. Charitable Receipts are available for donations.

For more information about contributions, please call: Fort Whyte Centre at 989-8355 or the Naturalists Society at 943-9029

ECJ

HOME OF INSTANT PRINTING



**NEW
FULL COLOR
PRINTING**

74 Princess Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K2
(Corner of Princess and McDermot)

COMMERCIAL QUICK PRINTERS

- offset printing • publications • carbonless forms •
- letterhead • flyers • brochures • business cards •
- booklets • 4-colour process printing • postcards • manuals •
- envelopes • catalogues • programs • labels • newsletters •
- tags • cerloxing • collating • folding • stitching • drilling •
- perforating • numbering • booklet making • direct mail •
- quick printing • color laser copying •
- social tickets • fax service • laminating •
- invitations • memo pads • high speed copying •
- layout and design • desktop publishing •



942-5225
Fax 956-5595

When the public expression of environmental concern starts to look like this:

sustainable

DEVELOPMENT...

...it's more important than ever to speak out for the basics which sustain all life: clean water, clean air and an uncontaminated earth.

That's why grassroots groups like the Manitoba Eco-Network and publications like Eco-Journal need your ongoing support.

Please consider becoming a **Sustaining Donor**...your automatic monthly contribution through our Pre-Authorized Chequing Program (PAC) will help to ensure that Eco-Journal can continue publishing, and that we can maintain vital services like our Environmental Resources Centre and Volunteer Effectiveness Program.

Join the 25 Eco-Network members already on PAC - and remember, your PAC contributions are tax deductible!

By my signature I authorize my bank to deduct \$_____ on the first day of each month and send it to the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Attached is a voided sample of my cheque.

Name(Ms/Mr) _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Authorization may be revoked on written notice to the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Charitable Registration # 0874305-21.

The Manitoba Eco-Network, 2-70 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E7

Sign me up as a member of the Manitoba Eco-Network

Enclosed is a cheque for:

- ☐ \$25 Supporting member (individuals)
☐ \$40 Group membership
☐ \$50 Other organizations (businesses, government departments and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for group membership)

I'm also enclosing a donation of _____ to help with your public education activities.

[Charitable tax receipts available for amounts over the cost of membership]

Total Amount enclosed _____

I'm interested in volunteering for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

Name(s) _____
Group (if applicable) _____ Telephone # () _____
Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____
Area(s) of interest _____ Volunteer skills _____

Group members are entitled to nominate representatives for a position on the Eco-Network Steering Committee. Group membership is open to any non-governmental, non-profit group which has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.

A supporting membership includes a subscription to **Eco-Journal** as well as notice of events and regular updates on issues and is open to any individual.