

31 October 1973

Stephen Lewis, MPP,
Scarborough West,
Room 212, North Wing,
Parliament Buildings,
Queen's Park,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am enclosing a copy of our brief in response to the government's recently released "Green Paper on Environmental Assessment".

The summary at the beginning of the brief outlines the main points, which we feel are crucial if meaningful public involvement in the environmental impact assessment process is to become a reality. I would also direct your attention to the brief's conclusion, where we mention a number of possible ways of opening up the discussion process on this matter.

I might refer you, as well, to the most recent statement of the Minister on the reorganization of the Ministry of Environment to include an environmental assessment division, as a possible sign that the Minister has already decided the form the assessment process is to take.

We have asked Minister Auld for a clarification and explanation of these moves, in light of the fact that the Green Paper was to be a source of discussion on those issues before any action was taken.

I am also enclosing a copy of a speech I gave before the Conservation Council of Ontario on October 24th, 1973, on two aspects of favored by the authors of the Green Paper, and how they affect (or shall I say militate against) public involvement in the environmental assessment process. Also enclosed is a Globe and Mail article regarding that forum, which discusses the remarks of other groups that gave formal responses to the Green Paper that day. I hope these materials may be of help to you.

I should say that, while the meeting was only a few hours in length, it revealed the depth of complexity surrounding this issue, and I think demonstrated the need for more forums of this type before legislation is introduced on this matter.

Clearly, the mere submission of briefs to the Ministry is not likely to result in the resolution of many of the problems and confusions that arose during that three-hour seminar.

In any event, we should be glad to discuss these and other concerns regarding this matter at your convenience.

Sincerely,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Joe Castrilli
Environmental Impact Assessment Group

JFC/eb
Encl.

P.S. Our staff appreciated your comments regarding the Canada Metal debacle, and the Air Management Branch generally, as reported in the October 30, 1973 press.