



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

February 25, 1999

Nan Shuttleworth
The Salamander Foundation
50 Park Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2N5

Dear Nan,

Re: Ontario at a Watershed

I have decided to write to you about concerns you raised about the portion of our proposal entitled "Ontario at a Watershed" and to update you on important developments influencing this work.

In particular you were concerned about the travel budget for this project and suggested in be reduced by \$2,500. We envisioned that travel funds will be needed for:

- CELA's Researcher and Coordinator to travel to Ottawa by train once a month to participate in national Water Watch Steering Committee meetings. CELA is a founding member of this group which is building a national campaign for a sustainable water strategy. This effort is trying to foster water watch groups across the country and will hold a people's summit on water this fall.
- For CELA staff to travel to and organize public response to the Canada/US Reference on water export to be carried out over the next year by the International Joint Commission. Unfortunately, we only learned several weeks ago that the Great Lakes portion of these deliberations - eight public hearings are to be held in mid-March. We had hoped to attend at least one of the US hearings so that the Canadian perspective and vulnerability of our water resources to the NAFTA could be entered as evidence since this issue is not very well understood by the US public and governments that share stewardship responsibilities for the Great Lakes.
- The other funds would be used for travel within Ontario to research and meet with communities impacted by growing water management issues such as depletion of their groundwater resources and recharge areas and unsustainable proposals to remove water from streams, lake and riverbeds to supply distant needs. We will also be addressing the loss of public control over essential public water and wastewater services with these communities. We would like to utilize some of these funds to pay

for travel for some of these communities to come together to plan sustainable solutions to their common concerns.

Since we spoke last, we have attended several national Water Watch Steering Committee meetings, and presented to their water workshop in Ottawa, responded to Ontario's draft regulation on surface water (see attached), and attended both the water quantity and toxic chemical consultations held by Environment Canada to frame their Great Lakes programme after the year 2000.

We feel that CELA's efforts have been extremely influential in leading to; the federal government's request for the IJC reference, the rare all-party day on Freshwater Resources which was held on February 10, 1999 in Ottawa, and the government announcements which followed the next day (see attached). As well, our work in Ontario has led to the Ontario government's new regulation. All of these outcomes however, fall far short of a sustainable water strategy. While these issues are very much in the public eye we will have a limited opportunity to advance public policy to include a true conservation ethic. Thank you for your interest in helping us achieve this. As you can see, work around the IJC reference will need to concentrate before April. I would like to discuss the possibility of our being able to apply funds received in April to expenses incurred before then.

Our operational budget has been inadequate to accommodate campaign opportunities which have arisen around this issue this year and we will be grateful for whatever level of funding you feel would be appropriate.

Paul Muldoon will be calling you about the second portion of this project and we can discuss these issues further. I felt I needed to inform you of the escalation in the opportunities.

Yours truly,



Sarah Miller
Coordinator