



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (CIELAP) HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2001 BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM AT FRIENDS HOUSE, 60 LOWTHER AVENUE, TORONTO

Present:

Board: *David Powell, Nicola Crawhall, Jack Johnson, Don Kerr, Rob Kerr, Marjorie Lamb, Nina Lester, Eva Ligeti, Ellie Perkins, Pamela Robinson, John Vincett*

Staff: *Anne Mitchell, Christine Elwell, Anicia Bonilla, & Maria Reinhard (volunteer)*

Guests: *Rafael Avila, Stephanie Boudreau, Greg Jenish, Kevin Sasaki, Kristin Lauhn-Jensen, Andrew McClure, Anurani Persaud, Cecilia Tagliava, Liz Reddy, Katharine Vansittar, Andrea Bailey, Ravenna Barker, Tracy Kett, Brad Cundiff, Frank Young, Zion Jury, Bryan Graham, Charlotte Young, Jason Thorne & Simon Newfeld*

Speakers: *Ken MacMullan, Rod MacRea*

Welcome and Introductions: David Powell as chair welcomed everybody to CIELAP's 31st Annual General Meeting and asked each person present to introduce themselves.

Minutes of last AGM: A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Don Kerr; seconded by Marjorie Lamb. All were in favor.

President's Remarks: The chair informed the AGM that CIELAP was not out of its deficit and had ended the year under review with a surplus of \$50,000. He thanked the ED and staff for their hard work over the year, which had resulted in the elimination of the deficit. He also specifically thanked Karen Clark and James Yacoumidis who left the organization in June 2001 but had contributed substantially to the completion of a number of projects, which helped us financially. The chair also welcomed new staff to CIELAP – Jennifer McKay, Anicia Bonilla and Christine Elwell.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Mitchell drew attention to the Annual Report and commented that the past year had been a busy and successful one, although there had been a number of staff changes. She commented on a number of the highlights of the past year and identified some of the objectives and challenges for the coming year. She also commented on the challenge of staying the course with developing sustainable policy solutions at a time when governments are focused on allocating substantial resources to a military response to the tragic events of September 11. She commented on our vision for a transformed future where we can make decisions, which will result in safer

communities, a more sustainable economy, and restoration of the environment and more equitable distribution of the world's resources. She commented that CIELAP was well positioned to help lead in the direction of sustainable communities by developing policy solutions, engaging the public and showing leadership. She also thanked the many CIELAP supporters, staff and volunteers for their support during the past year and urged them to continue their support in the coming year. She specifically asked for their ideas and suggestions; their contacts and networks; their voices to engage with our politicians; and their money.

Audited Financial Statements: Bryan Graham, Pricewaterhousecoopers, CIELAP's auditors presented the audited financial statements for the year under review. He commented on the good relationship that PWC had with CIELAP and he commented that there had been quite a turnaround in the financial affairs of the organization during the last two years. The AGM accepted the audited financial statements.

Appointment of Auditors: There was a motion presented to reappoint PWC as CIELAP's auditors for the coming year, 2001-02. This was moved by Nina Lester and seconded by Rob Kerr. The motion was approved.

Nominations: Pamela Robinson presented the slate of members of the Board of Directors. She pointed out that there are vacancies on the Board of Directors at the present time and that the Board was not going to fill these vacancies until the three-year strategic plan has been approved and agree on how we want to diversify our board.

Planning: Nicola Crawhall, Chair of the Planning Committee introduced the members of the planning committee. She then commented on the work of the planning committee over the past six months: reviewing where we are in our current five year plan; discussing where CIELAP fits in after 30 years of policy research; and how can we as an organization respond to the need to develop more sustainable solutions. She then briefly presented the draft plan to the AGM. The plan is still a draft; comments are still being considered; and the next draft will be presented to the Board of Directors at its January meeting.

Climate Change and Organic Agriculture – A Policy Niche for CIELAP – Ken McMullan, an organic farmer introduced the topic of climate change and biodiversity and how they come together around agriculture. The two international agreements that are important in this area are the Convention on Biodiversity and the Kyoto Protocol to the Climate Change Convention. He talked about the intensification of agriculture resulting in a monopolistic structure and control; about the need for in situ gene conservation; the need for forecasting for sustainability; and the need for risk assessment and analysis re climate change. His comments are attached.

Rod McCrea, Food Policy Analyst and CIELAP Research Associate then commented on three areas that CIELAP might be interested in getting involved in:

1 Taking the Precautionary Principle to the Regulators: Agriculture is in serious trouble in Canada; policy makers and regulators do not know what to do. How do we help?

2 How to drive the adoption of farming systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, food and agriculture are responsible for 25% of greenhouse gas emissions?

3 Change the pattern of land use: in some areas of the country we have too much dairy farming; in others too much crop; too many pigs; and not enough vegetables. How do we create a more integrated landscape?

Rod concluded that, apart from the World Wide Fund, there are few organizations in Canada addressing these issues; CIELAP has one considerable work in the biotechnology area and more recently in organic agriculture with their partner organization, Fundacion Ambio in Costa Rica. He also commented that environmental funders are seeing agriculture as more and more part of the problem.

Some discussion followed. CIELAP commented that this was really interesting and relevant for us at this point in time, when we are developing a new three-year strategic plan.

The chair thanked Ken and Rod for an interesting and stimulating presentation. He thanked everyone for coming and invited him to join us in the dining room for refreshments.

The AGM adjourned at 8 pm.