

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Thursday November 12 2002
at Friends House, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto**

Welcome: David Powell, CIELAP President welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Present: John Warren; Angela Rickman; Lisa King; Nancy Palardy; Helen Howes; Nina Lester; Alex McDonald; Peter Victor; Peter Ormond; Amer Obeidi; Andrew McClure; Keith Hipel; Kurtz Repole; Ena Ysinga; Brad Cundiff; Vicki Ziegler; Michael D'Cunha; Ingrid Harris; Phil Harris; Laura Sisso; Stephanie Drake; Charlotte Young; Atilla Fust; David Laird; Nicole Geneau; Angela Morris; Stephen Kotze; Bryan Graham; Shauna Solomon; Brad Bryant; Prabha Khosla; David Powell; Nicola Crawhall; Jennifer Hooper; Rob Kerr; Marjorie Lamb; Ellie Perkins; Pamela Robinson; Carol Lynn Wallace; John Vincett; Anne Mitchell; Anicia Bonilla; Chrisinte Elwell; Janet Sherbanowski; Lorraine Land

Executive Director's Report: Anne Mitchell, CIELAP's Executive Director reported on the year's activities. Her report is attached.

Auditor's Report: Bryan Graham, CIELAP's auditor presented the audited financial statements for the year. He pointed out that the main concern for CIELAP in terms of its financial position is the erosion of deferred revenues. The financial statements were received.

Appointment of Auditors for 2002/03: Pricewaterhousecoopers were appointed as CIELAP's auditors for 2002/03. Pricewaterhousecoopers were appointed as CIELAP's auditors for 2002/03. This was approved.

Nominations to the Board of Directors: David Powell introduced the board of directors to the annual general meeting.

WSSD Workshop: Seven Canadians who had attended the WSSD briefly presented their perspectives on the Summit and advice to CIELAP re research priorities. The workshop participants then reviewed CIELAP's program and offered their suggestions re priorities, activities and potential partnerships. The proceedings from the workshop are attached.

Refreshments: The workshop was followed by networking and refreshments.

Biomimicry: At 8.30 pm a preview of the CBC Nature of Things program *Biomimicry: Learning from Nature* was shown. This two-part documentary is produced by Paul Lang and David Springbett; directed by Paul Lang of Icon Media. Thanks to Michael Alder, executive producer of The Nature of Things for this opportunity.



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Annual General Meeting

Held at the Friends House
November 12
2002

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Introduction

The Board of Directors of CIELAP at its January 2002 meeting approved CIELAP's new three-year strategic plan. The plan identifies four program areas for the next three years: Sustainable Policy Solutions; Governance for Sustainability; Public and Community Engagement; and Youth Leadership. With this new plan, CIELAP seeks to move away from a project specific focus toward one centered around program planning and development. The plan also identifies the need for CIELAP to expand its capacity. We hope to complement our tradition of comprehensive research with other important functions such as community outreach, the development of sustainability models, and the mentoring of future environmentalists.

At CIELAP's annual general meeting held November 12, 2002 priorities and projects potentially resulting from the new strategic plan were discussed. In this discussion the degree of importance of various program areas of the strategic plan were determined by a vote. Additionally all those in attendance were invited to contribute new project ideas and to suggest potential partners for each area.

As part of the Annual General Meeting, CIELAP convened a workshop on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg from August 24 – September 4 2002. This global event brought together tens of thousands of participants who will be key to the success of sustainable development in the future. In addition to governments, there were active participation by representatives from business and industry, children and youth, farmers, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, scientific and technological communities, women and workers and trade unions. CIELAP's Executive Director Anne Mitchell attended the World Summit in Johannesburg and shared her thoughts about this event. Several Canadians who had also attended the WSSD also had an opportunity to discuss different issues raised in Johannesburg at the CIELAP workshop.

At the workshop those who had attended the World Summit were asked to do a 3-5 minute presentation in which they summarized what they thought the World Summit accomplished and what it all means for the future work of CIELAP. The following summarizes the presenters and the key messages of their presentations.

- Anne Mitchell emphasized that CIELAP could continue with the initiatives it began prior to the WSSD. The discussion paper on Sustainable Development in Canada: A New Federal Plan could be a starting point for a process in Canada to develop a sustainable development strategy as committed to at the WSSD. We could organize a second Partnering for Sustainability Conference. We can continue the discussions around the Sustainability Impact Assessment framework and the discussion paper we released on the eve of the WSSD.
- Angela Rickman of the Sierra Club was a member of the Canadian official delegation at the WSSD. She emphasized that the main lesson of the summit is that the creation of international agreements such as this one is a terribly cynical process. She said that

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CIELAP can be most effective in holding the Canadian government to the limited commitments that it made at the WSSD.

- Helen Howes of Ontario Power Generation represented the business sector at the WSSD. She emphasized that the WSSD secretariat in Canada is staying together after the conference in order to develop an implementation plan and that the Auditor General of Canada is keen to push implementation, meaning that the conference has potential to create real change. She also mentioned that business had a much stronger voice at this conference than at the Rio summit, but that in a way this was justified as business *must* be a part of the solution.
- Lisa King of the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority attended the local government sessions at the WSSD. She emphasized that the earth charter was acknowledged at the conference as a significant tool, and perhaps this could be used for CIELAP's benefit. She also noted that there is still no accepted definition of sustainability and little consensus about the direction of action that will bring it about.
- Praba Khosla of Women's Environment and Development Organization attended the Women's Caucus. She focused her presentation on the WSSD in the context of globalization. She said that it is important to look at the corporatization of the United Nations and other bodies of international governance. In addition, she suggested that mechanisms to make corporations act responsibly need to be created and perhaps this is, in part, CIELAP's role. She further said that the resolutions created still need implementation and that CIELAP could focus on that.
- Nancy Palardy of KAIROs, an ecumenical organization, was part of the Ecumenical Team at the WSSD. She said that she came away from the summit with the impression that, in general, it was a failure. This is because community groups were calling for targets and timetables, but none were created. The one significant achievement of the conference was the announcement that Kyoto will be ratified. This could be a focus for CIELAP. Another focus for CIELAP could be sustainable production and consumption work.

Assessment Grid

The top priority of those attending the Annual General Meeting was Governance for Sustainability. Among the projects proposed that deal with *governance for sustainability* are

- governance of corporations at a global level
- NGO organizational templates
- model business template for corporate use
- pressuring government to increase pollution and energy targets by emphasizing markets and increasing consumer responsibility

The second priority of those attending was *energy issues*.

Following energy issues biotechnology, water issues, youth leadership, and public engagement and capacity building were more or less equally important in the eyes of those attending the AGM.

Finally, hazardous waste issues ranked lowest in the priorities of those attending the AGM.

Potential Partners Identified

Attendants and speakers suggested for CIELAP following partnerships:

Auditor General's Department
 Secretariat Implementing the WSSD Commitments
 Local Governments
 Corporate sector
 ICLEI
 Local Action 21 Groups
 Round Tables

Assessment grid and suggestions under each of the programs under the Strategic Plan

Sustainable Policy Solutions Program (SPSP):

This program will address policies, trends and solutions in such areas as hazardous waste, green power, water quality, food and biotechnology.

Ideas brought forward:

- Help develop the consensus about the meaning of the precautionary principle, and see how it can and should be applied in the fields of chemicals, energy and biotechnology.

☐ **Biotechnology** (e.g. International sustainable development work with Costa Rica and Uganda)

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• (22)	Youth (students) education	Macarthur Foundation
		FES York – Costa Rica Project
	Dialogues with corporations (regulations are your friends)	NGO grants FOE
	Impact of GMOs on developing nations	Dupont, Navartis
		CIDA

Ideas brought forward:

- Develop a policy on sustainable agriculture that relates to the Canadian situation and which guides foreign aid in that sector.

☐ **Water** (e.g. Liquid Assets: Monitoring Water Quality in Ontario – report, paper on Drinking Water Act)

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• • • • • • • • • •	Privatization – Policies/Laws	

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• (29)	Gender Analysis should be incorporated in all the work along + race + geography	

Ideas brought forward:

- Comment on the increasing privatization of water resources and how this phenomenon fits in to the concept of equity and hence sustainability.

☐ **Energy** (e.g. paper: Ensuring Green Power Supplies in Ontario: Responding to Perverse Subsidies and Other Market Inequities)

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• (39)	All Green Power (solar/wind) on a mass community scale, housing projects – net building	
	Creating markets, removing barriers	
	Privatization – policy and law	

Ideas brought forward:

- In the field of energy, finding ways to improve efficacy of use for the general public, so that they can participate in the cutbacks in emissions in meaningful and measurable ways.
- Make the clear link between energy usage and climate change issues, targets and timetables are essential to the creation of an effective plan.
- Helping to establish realistic targets for renewables and developing mechanisms to measure success in achieving targets, and the contribution made by these targets to national goals.
- Consider the role of nuclear power as a component in the energy supply mix and how that fits with the sustainability agenda.
- More work on water and energy.
- Gather the facts on the subsidization component in fossil fuels and hence make the case for alternate tax and subsidy approaches that favor greener fuels.

☐ **Hazardous Waste** (e.g. new version, Ontario: Open for Toxics paper)

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• • • • • • • • • • (9)	HHW definition – Darryl Neate CSA (sawer disposal)	CWWA

Governance for Sustainability Program (GSP)

This program will address how to create a more sustainable society by analyzing governance mechanisms both domestically and internationally to ensure environmental protection and sustainability. E.g. Sustainable Development in Canada: a new Federal Plan – report: CIELAP's Sixth Annual Report on Ontario's Environment

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
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	Governance of corporations at global level	Council of Canadian International Environmental Groups
	NGO organizational templates	City of Toronto, TRCA
	Develop model business template for corporate use	Business partnerships

Ideas brought forward:

- Creating a framework for tracking the success of WSSD commitments and there inherent usefulness. This would be through the Auditor general's Department and perhaps the WSSD implementation Committee.
- Creating useful activity around corporate accountability and social responsibility to arrive at consensus about meaning, metrics and goals, making the link with sustainability.
- Examine the power of global capitalism and the power of neo-liberal thought and their interaction on the world stage, and offer thoughts about how an appropriate balance might be achieved.
- Revisiting the Earth Charter and its role in energizing activity on sustainability goals.
- Analyze the implementation plan from Kyoto, suggesting options for tools and policies to ensure success.
- Tracking the implementation of the Rio undertakings and maintaining the importance of Agenda 21 in the minds of Canadians.
- Investigate the issues around concerns of corporate trade rules achieving primacy over environmental agreements.
- Revisit the Millennium development goals.
- Consider the role for International Civil Society and how to organize on a global basis to have an effective voice.
- The sustainability of production and consumption, helping Canadians to see the link and understand their own role in potentially defeating progress through consumption.

Public and Community Engagement Program (PCEP)

This program builds on initiatives such as our Citizens' Guides, poster maps, website and curricula for teachers to create better informed and more active citizens. E.g. Citizen's Guides, Pollution Watch Website development www.pollutionwatch.com

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • (27)	Earth Charter Type II Partnerships Taings people can do sustainable actions/ living	ICLE, TRCA, Municipalities, Coalitions, Suzuki Foundation

Ideas brought forward:

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- Address the question of attribution of emissions to the consuming country, rather than to the country of origination. This would be helpful in Canada's export areas, but it would also show considerable imports from other countries (including the transportation factor), drawing clear attention to the link between consumption and production. This information could provide a much clearer rationale for substitution for local products e.g. Niagara Wine rather than New Zealand wine, and Ontario apples rather than Californian figs.

Youth Leadership Program (YLP) (e.g. youth internships)

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • (24)	Teaching Biotech issues + Environmental Concerns Directions for future University studies	Cooperative education programs with universities (University of Waterloo) and high Schools
		School boards

Capacity Building (e.g. fundraising, systems development)

IMPORTANCE	PROJECT IDEAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • (16)	Text books: use curriculum of Boards/Ministries to create/to facilitate sales to Boards in Canada, US, Internationally	Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition