



INTERVENOR

*Dedicated to environmental equity, justice,
health for over 50 years*

Clean Air. Everywhere.

Where you live in Ontario should not determine how much pollution you breathe.

Yet under the province's current air pollution regulations, some communities - often low-income or Indigenous - are exposed to far higher levels of harmful pollution than others. This is not an accident. It is the predictable result of a regulatory system that manages pollution facility-by-facility instead of protecting people from cumulative harm.

This is especially true of the communities in and around Ontario's industrial hubs, with facilities sometimes permitted to emit airborne contaminants thousands of times higher than provincial standards and little consideration given to the cumulative effects.

CELA has created a new series of community profiles, highlighting how cumulative air pollution is unfairly impact four regions in Ontario.

1. Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Sarnia
2. Hamilton
3. Sault St. Marie
4. Sudbury

[Click here to learn more](#)

Casework

High-Level Risk in Revell Lake Area: The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is proposing to store high-level radioactive waste in the Revell Lake area near Ignace, Ontario, and a federal Impact Assessment process has been initiated. If approved, this would be the first ever Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in Canada. CELA recently [submitted comments](#) on behalf of its client, We the Nuclear Free North, on the inadequacy of the proponent's Initial Project Description. Read more on [our website](#).

Proposal to Build New Nuclear Station at Wesleyville: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to build Ontario's largest nuclear facility in Wesleyville, Ontario, and a federal Impact Assessment process has been initiated. CELA recently [submitted comments](#) on the Initial Project Description, on behalf of our clients Durham Nuclear Awareness and Slovenian Home Association. CELA and its clients are arguing that this project is premature for an environmental assessment because OPG has provided almost no information about what type of nuclear power they are planning for the site. Different nuclear technologies bring different risks in terms of accidents, types of radioactive emissions, ability to prevent severe damage, how to plan for emergencies, and different types of radioactive nuclear waste. Read more on [our website](#).

Radioactive Mine Waste: CELA appeared at the Federal Court of Appeal earlier this month along with Blaise Law and our client, local homeowner Lisa Speck. CELA [argued](#) that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has jurisdiction over uranium mine waste rock that has been moved off of licensed uranium mining sites in the Elliot Lake area and used as fill on residential properties. Uranium mine waste can cause indoor radon levels to rise and can expose residents to radiation above regulatory limits. Unfortunately, the appeal was denied.

Law Reform

Comment Period: ArcelorMittal Dofasco is seeking a renewal of its environmental compliance approval for its steel operations in Hamilton. The [posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) does not contain sufficient information, and CELA requested and received additional documents. The comment period has been extended and now closes on March 12, 2026. Areas of concern about the facility include local air pollution, transparency, and expiry of site specific standards many years ago.

Sulphur Limits in Gasoline: The federal government sets regulations for Sulphur levels under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, and recently proposed amendments that would extend the use of a Sulphur credit system for facilities who have not yet been able to meet the target levels. CELA [submitted comments](#), urging the government to retract the proposed amendments.

Bill C-61: The federal government has indicated its intention to re-introduce legislation for the protection of First Nations drinking water. CELA [sent a letter](#) to Prime Minister Carney, reiterating the integral role of source water protection for First Nations drinking water systems.

Resources

New Blog: Ontario's Special Economic Zones Act allows certain projects to bypass environmental assessments and regulatory approvals. New regulations grant broad discretionary powers to Cabinet and Ministers, raising serious concerns about transparency, Indigenous rights, and long-term environmental harm. [Read the full blog here.](#)

Webinar: Filling the Gaps - Environmental Health Knowledge Mobilization Resources & Strategies for Prenatal Care

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 12:00–1:00 PM ET

[*Register here*](#)

Hosted by the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment (CPCHE), this webinar will present findings from a national scan of environmental health educational resources, highlight tools currently in development, and invite discussion on how these resources can better support preconception and prenatal care.

Event: Healthy Yards - Conversations about Air and Noise Pollution

Date: Monday, March 2, 6:00-8:00pm ET

Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology Historic Site, 900 Woodward Ave.

CELA will be in Hamilton on March 2nd, alongside the Ward 4 team, talking about air pollution. It's an opportunity to hear from speakers and talk with neighbours about our concerns and find out what we can do.

Public Legal Education: CELA staff made a number of presentations this past month. Executive Director Theresa McClenaghan spoke to CFUW Brantford on the "Future of Environmental Law in Canada", and also participated in Northwatch's fourteenth annual webinar series about nuclear waste in Canada. Julie Mutis presented about lead service line removals at a webinar hosted by the Ontario Municipal Wastewater Association.

As part of a Toronto Atmospheric Foundation funded project on building equity into building emissions performance standards, counsel Jacqueline Wilson spoke at a Climate Caucus webinar, attended by municipal elected officials across the country.

Need Legal Services?

If you have an environmental justice issue, we may be able to help.

We provide free, confidential legal help to people living on low income as well as vulnerable, under-resourced or Indigenous communities.

We also provide environmental justice legal advice to individuals and groups regardless of income.

Complete an online intake form, call our office at 416-960-2284 or 1-844-755-1420 ext 7216, or email us at articling@cela.ca.

[Click here to complete an intake form](#)

Support Our Work

The Canadian Environmental Law Foundation raises funds to support environmental research, education, and access-to-justice initiatives.

In addition, the Foundation works to preserve and make accessible the history of environmental law in Canada so that future generations can learn from the past. This includes our digital and physical library and archival holdings.

Your gift today will help mentor the next generation of environmental lawyers and sustain the research and education needed to ensure environmental law continues to evolve.

[Support Our Work](#)

From the Foundation

February Feature: This month's feature from the Canadian Environmental Law Archive is a 1992 guide produced by Great Lakes United, titled "Guide to Pollution Prevention in Your Community". The purpose of the guide was to help citizen advocates create and improve the environmental practices of industry and government in the Great Lakes Basin.

Forward to a Friend

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