

# Program and Background Notes



## Education for Sustainable Development Networking Forum

September 21, 2006

Downsview  
Park

A joint presentation of the newly-forming  
**Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group**  
and the  
**Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development**

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The United Nations **Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 –2014)** is a complex and far-reaching undertaking with enormous environmental, social, and economic implications. Its goal is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. This will, in turn, encourage changes in behaviour leading to a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society for present and future generations.

The U.N. General Assembly established broad goals for the decade, as well as important national level subgoals which are to:

- Provide an opportunity for refining and promoting the vision of and transition to sustainable development through all forms of education, public awareness and training.
- Give an enhanced profile to the important role of education and learning in sustainable development.

The worldwide objectives for the DESD are to:

- facilitate networking, linkages, exchange and interaction among stakeholders in ESD;
- foster an increased quality of teaching and learning in education for sustainable development;
- help countries make progress towards and attain the millennium development goals through ESD efforts;
- provide countries with new opportunities to incorporate ESD into education reform efforts.

*“... overall goal of the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning.”*

- UNESCO website

Further information on the decade and updates on progress from around the world can be found on the UNESCO website at: <http://portal.unesco.org/education/en>

## PROGRAM

- 9:00 – 9:10 Welcome – *Merebeth Switzer, Acting Project Manager, Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (OESDWG) and Kim Peters, Coordinator, Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development (Toronto RCE)*
- 9:10 – 9:30 The U.N. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development - *Dr. David Bell, Chair of Learning for A Sustainable Future and Downsview Park*
- 9:30 - 10:30 Ontario's sustainability challenges and opportunities, *Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner for Ontario*
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:10 Canada and the UN Decade Education for Sustainable Development, *Daniel Rosset, Manager, Education and Youth, Environment Canada - Public Education and Outreach Directorate*
- National and Provincial/Territorial ESD Initiatives, *Pamela Schwartzberg, Executive Director, Learning for a Sustainable Future*
- 11:10 – 11:30 Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group, *Merebeth Switzer, OESDWG*
- 11:30 – 1 pm Networking, Information Displays & Lunch – Network, visit displays from participants, provide informal feedback for the ESD inventory and the Ontario Working Group. A light lunch will be available.
- 1:00 Workshop on the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, Welcome and Introductions, *Kim Peters, Toronto RCE Coordinator*
- 1:05 Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD: An Opportunity for Toronto, *Joel Weiss, Senior Fellow, Knowledge Media Design Institute, University of Toronto & Educational Advisory Committee, Toronto Zoo*
- 1:20 Canadian RCEs: An Evolving Network, *Susan Kingsbury, Senior Strategies Advisor, Public Education & Outreach Directorate, Environment Canada*
- 1:30– 1:45 Questions
- 1:45-1:55 Coffee Break - (*Display tear-down for those who do not wish to stay for facilitated workshops*)
- 1:55 – 2:00 Outline of Workshop Activities, *Bob Davis, Facilitator*
- 2:00 Workshop Groups
- Workshop 1 – Prioritising (RCE-ESD Themes)
- 2:35 Workshop 2a – Dotmocracy (RCE Goals and Objectives)
- 3:05 Workshop 2b – Dotmocracy (RCE Activities)
- 3:35 Discussion
- 4:00 Wrap-up, Next Steps, *Kim Peters, Toronto RCE Coordinator*
- 4:10 *Display takedown. **Any help in cleaning up and stacking the tables and chairs would be appreciated. Thank you.***

## Canada and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD) National DESD

Three events were held in 2004 and 2005 to discuss Canada's involvement in the Decade. The *National Workshop on the DESD* in March, 2005 was held to gather and synthesize opinion from 55 invited representatives from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to:

- understand the Decade in a Canadian context;
- create a clear understanding of what success looks like to Canada;
- determine roles and responsibilities;
- identify what resources are available; and
- develop a series of goals and action items, with the ultimate long-term goal to "create a culture in which education for sustainable development is a component."

From these discussions the following goals were established:

### Short-term goals:

- establish a Community of Practice
- establish an ad hoc steering committee for the Decade to develop an ESD strategy
- conduct an inventory of existing resources
- develop a broad engagement strategy
- develop a sustainable development integration policy for formal education
- create resources needed to support ESD initiatives, programs, existing networks and projects
- develop a communication/marketing plan; and create a "strong network/governance model."

### Medium and Long-term goals:

- the integration of ESD into all forms of education (formal, informal, non-formal)
- public understanding and acceptance of ESD
- indicators to measure success of ESD
- coordinated funding to support activities and innovative projects
- Canada recognized as a model and leader in ESD

# Education for Sustainable Development Strategic Initiatives

The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) began in 2005 and runs to 2014. In Canada, Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF), Environment Canada and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth/Advanced Education and Training (*MECY/MAET*) have initiated a series of initiatives in support of the UNDESD including: Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups, the establishment of a National Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Council, an ESD Resource Database, and the Canadian Sustainability Curriculum Review Initiative. In addition, LSF is partnering with other groups to develop a three-day Sustainable Education Academy – Education Leader's Seminar.

## **Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups**

The Provincial/ Territorial ESD Working Groups bring together leaders from: federal government regional offices, provincial ministries, faculties of education, school boards, teacher networks, academia, business, community, and non-government organizations. The purpose of the Working Groups is to support the regional coordination, development and implementation of ESD policies, curricula, resources and teacher education in the formal, non-formal and informal education sectors. In July 2005, a pilot Working Group was established in Manitoba. In January 2006, six additional provinces/territories were selected to establish ESD Working Groups, including British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Nunavut. It is anticipated that all 13 provinces and territories will have working groups established within the next year.

## **National ESD Expert Council**

The National Education for Sustainable Development Expert Council (NESDEC) engages representatives of the Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups, as well as other key provincial/territorial and national ESD players. The Council addresses crosscutting issues of ESD and promotes research, communication, and the sharing of best practices. A consultation meeting was held on May 4/5, 2006 in Toronto. The first meeting will take place in the fall of 2006.

## **ESD Resource Database**

The ESD Resources Database provides classroom teachers with improved access to excellent and relevant resources that support ESD. All resources on the site are pre-screened for appropriate ESD content and reviewed by teachers. Teachers will be able to search the site by: ESD issue, school subject, grade, curriculum strand and/or geographic region. All resources are linked to the curriculum in each province/ territory. The site will help teachers to efficiently locate excellent resources that meet their particular curriculum needs.

## **Sustainability Curriculum Review Initiative**

To strengthen and to track sustainability literacy in Canada, LSF has established the *Canadian Sustainability Curriculum Review Initiative* to identify curricular expectations and instructional strategies that facilitate ESD learning. This initiative identifies what should be included in formal curriculum policy around 12 sustainability themes identified in the UN Decade of ESD Strategy, as well as the most appropriate instructional methods for learning about key ESD themes. These materials will be used by Ministries of Education as a tool to review curriculum policies as they are revised.

## **Sustainable Education Academy**

LSF is partnering with The York University Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability, Schulich School of Business, and York University's Faculty of Education, to design a three day Sustainable Education Academy - Education Leader's Seminar. This seminar is designed to motivate and equip senior education officials to lead the integration of ESD as a core value in all aspects of formal education including: policy, curriculum, teaching, learning, professional development, and the sustainable management of human, physical and financial resources. The first Senior Education Leader's Seminar will take place in the spring of 2007.



For more information, contact **Learning for a Sustainable Future** at (416) 327-2032 or [info@lsf-ist.ca](mailto:info@lsf-ist.ca)

## Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (OESDWG)

Earlier this year representatives from Ontario NGOs and government organizations started the process of creating a working group for Education for Sustainable Development. They took part in conference calls and provided input into the initial proposal to Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) to obtain seed funding as part of a national initiative to create provincial and territorial working groups to address education for sustainable development. In addition, they provided 15 letters of support from:

ACER—Association for Canadian Educational Resources  
Bruce Murphy (teacher and COEO representative)  
CIELEP – Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy  
Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian Centre for Biodiversity  
Clean Air Champions  
Conservation Ontario  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Eastern Ontario Model Forests (EOMF)  
EEON – Environmental Education Ontario  
GAEL—Gesner & Associates Environmental Learning  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Ontario Nature  
Toronto Zoo  
Upper Canada College

*“We look forward . . .  
to working with the  
Ontario ESDWG to  
educate all students and  
the population in  
general about concepts  
and  
issues related to the  
environment and  
sustainability.”*

- Ministry of Education

Since that time other groups and individuals have come forward to express their support and we look forward to everyone’s continued efforts to grow the Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group, its various subcommittees and to implement the numerous tasks that will make this a successful undertaking.

### **PURPOSE:**

**To provide a focal point for all interested parties to become involved and work together collaboratively to create a culture of education for sustainable development in Ontario and to have a cumulative impact to create a similar culture nationwide.**

The (OESDWG) will bring together leaders in formal, informal and non-formal education to support the coordination, development and implementation of ESD policies, curricula, materials/resources and teacher education.

This will be an integrated effort involving the many aspects of ESD. It will include a full range of Ontario organizations involved in these activities including all levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal), non-government organizations, academia, business and so on.

### **Goals**

- Build ESD within the formal school system as well as key publics including OESDWG working group and subcommittee members, municipal and business sector leaders and so on.
- Establish leadership and strategic collaborations among governments, education sector leaders, business, and community NGOs in order to increase cohesion and leverage in creating a culture for ESD.
- Relay a sense of urgency and the latest science on critical sustainability issues such, climate change, HIV/Aids, poverty reduction, energy, sustainable cities, health and so on.
- Coordinate, facilitate connections and bring together stakeholders from the formal, non-formal and in-formal education sector for policy input, debate and planning to enhance

delivery of ESD activities in support of the UN's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

More information about the OESDWG including our regular Updates can be found at <http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php>

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at: [esd\\_ontario@lst-lst.ca](mailto:esd_ontario@lst-lst.ca)

## **Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development**

Toronto was selected as one of several Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development by the United Nations University in 2005. Regional Centres from around the world will seek to enhance access and quality of education for sustainable development (ESD). The Regional Centres for Expertise (RCEs) are one way that the United Nations is promoting the International Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). At the international level, the United Nations University will support linkages and sharing between RCEs from around the world.

Toronto's RCE plans to strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among ESD stakeholders in the Toronto region. In addition to taking stock of existing ESD initiatives in the Toronto region, the RCE will work to identify ESD gaps and opportunities, and will endeavour to address them in an integrated manner.

For more information about the Toronto RCE, please contact Kim Peters, Toronto RCE coordinator, at 416-392-1848 or [kpeters@toronto.ca](mailto:kpeters@toronto.ca).

## **SOME GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S FORUM**

### **Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention**

[www.c2p2online.com](http://www.c2p2online.com)

Our audience includes all levels of government, small, medium and large businesses, industrial associations, healthcare institutions and NGOs. The CCPP deals with pollution prevention, sustainable consumption and production, energy conservation, health and environment, toxics and waste reduction by promoting public awareness, social marketing, education and networking.

### **Children's Water Education Council**

[www.cwec.ca](http://www.cwec.ca)

The Children's Water Education Council promotes community based environmental education by working with local organizations. We facilitate unique water based programs designed for children that are hands-on and interactive.

### **CIELAP**

[www.cielap.org](http://www.cielap.org)

The Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) was founded in 1970 and is an independent, not-for-profit environmental think tank. We conduct accurate, balanced, evidence-based research and facilitate greater civic engagement to help shape public policy debate.

### **Citizen's Environment Watch**

[www.citizensenvironmentwatch.org](http://www.citizensenvironmentwatch.org)

Citizen's Environment Watch provides education, equipment and support for community-based ecological monitoring and stewardship. We help our participants reconnect to local ecosystems, monitor and improve ecosystem health, and participate in community decision-making.

### **Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment**

[www.nigaraescarpment.org](http://www.nigaraescarpment.org)

CONE is a non-government, non-profit coalition of conservation organizations, community groups and concerned citizens dedicated to the protection of the Niagara Escarpment, a World Biosphere Reserve.

### **Ducks Unlimited Canada**

[www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)

DUC is a national, charitable non-profit organization dedicating its efforts toward the conservation of wetlands. Our mission is to conserve wetlands and associated habitats for the benefit of North America's waterfowl, which in turn provide healthy environments for wildlife and people.

### **Earth Day Canada/ecoMentors**

[www.ecomentors.ca](http://www.ecomentors.ca)

Earth Day Canada is a national environmental communications organization mandated to improve the state of the environment by empowering Canadians to achieve local solutions. Since 1991, EDC has been coordinating Earth Day/Month events and creating successful community programs and award winning artistic and media projects.

### **Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Network**

[www.eman-rese.ca](http://www.eman-rese.ca)

The Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Network is made up of partners and practitioners involved in the generation and use of ecological monitoring information. The network includes long-term ecological monitoring sites, as well as a variety of more extensive monitoring stations spanning from urban to impacted to "pristine" in all Canadian ecozones.

**EcoSource**

[www.ecosource.ca](http://www.ecosource.ca)

EcoSource is an environmental organization dedicated to fostering environmental sustainability through public education on waste reduction and other environmental issues of concern to local residents. We inspire citizens to become more environmentally responsible through our in-school environmental education and community-based environmental programs.

**EEON**

[www.eeon.org](http://www.eeon.org)

EEON-Environmental Education Ontario-has developed a strategic plan with 17 audiences “Greening the Way Ontario Learns” and has a mandate to support its implementation for environmental and sustainability education in Ontario to ensure that future generations will inherit an environmentally friendly province.

**Environment Canada-Biodiversity Convention Office**

[www.cbin.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cbin.ec.gc.ca)

BCO is the National Focal Point for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. One of the many programs of work that BCO coordinates is the Global Initiative on Biodiversity Communication, Education & Public Awareness.

**Environment Canada – Science & Technology Liaison Division**

[www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)

The Science & Technology Liaison Division supports strategic communication of knowledge and research developed by Environment Canada’s S&T Branch. We engage with: researchers (government, industry, academia): policy makers (government, advocate, industry): managers and decision makers (government, industry, large landowners). We also keep in touch with young people – tomorrow’s scientists.

**Evergreen**

[www.evergreen.ca](http://www.evergreen.ca)

Evergreen is a national non-profit environmental organization with a mandate to bring nature to our cities through naturalization projects. Evergreen motivates people to create a sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces and gives them the practical tools to be successful through its three core programs: Learning Grounds ( transforming school grounds), Common Grounds ( conserving publicly accessible land) and Home Grounds (for the home landscape).

**Exhibition Place, Board of Directors**

[www.explace.on.ca](http://www.explace.on.ca)

A local board of the City of Toronto, Exhibition Place.

**Faculty of Environmental Studies-York University**

[www.yorku.ca/fes](http://www.yorku.ca/fes)

The Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University provides graduate and undergraduate students with the foremost environmental education in Canada.

**Green Communities Canada**

[www.greencommunitiescanada.org](http://www.greencommunitiescanada.org)

Green Communities Canada is a national association of non-profit organizations delivering innovative, practical solutions to Canadian households and communities. Our work is accomplished through publications, demonstrations, home visits, resource centres, extensive volunteer involvement and formal and informal education activities.

**Mitchell & Associates Consulting**

n/a

Holly Mitchell is an independent consultant in the management and communication of research knowledge and environmental learning. She is a skilled writer and educator, specializing in risk communication and citizen engagement in the adoption of sustainable technologies.

### **Ontario Arts Council**

[www.arts.on.ca](http://www.arts.on.ca)

The OAC is an arm's-length agency of the Ministry of Culture. OAC's grants and services to professional, Ontario-based artists and arts organizations support arts education, Aboriginal arts, community arts, crafts, dance, Franco-Ontarian arts, literature, media arts, multidisciplinary arts, music, theatre, touring and visual arts.

### **Ontario EcoSchools**

[www.yorku.ca/ecoschl/index.asp](http://www.yorku.ca/ecoschl/index.asp)

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education program that addresses both how the schools are run and what students learn. It has been designed collaboratively by school boards for school boards to incorporate environmental education as well as environmentally responsible action into the school setting.

### **Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition**

[www.healthycommunities.on.ca](http://www.healthycommunities.on.ca)

The OHCC works with the diverse communities of Ontario to strengthen their social, environmental and economic well-being. We support community groups and coalitions who support the principles of Healthy Communities and/or are working on healthy community based initiatives.

### **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**

[www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)

Provincial ministry dedicated to the preservation and sustainable use of Ontario's natural resources. Particular Forum interests include dissemination of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy and promotion of the OESDWG Biodiversity Subcommittee

### **Out to Learn/Kinark Sustainable Living Centre**

[www.glenside-eco.ca](http://www.glenside-eco.ca)

Out to Learn delivers natural resource, ecological and environmental education programs that are designed to provide participants with factual and theoretical information. These programs are science and geography based with direct links to the Ontario curriculum. The Kinark Outdoors Centre is now home to the newly constructed Sustainable Living Classroom.

### **Parc Downsview Park**

[www.pdp.ca](http://www.pdp.ca)

Downsview Park is a sustainable community in the making. Park programs are designed to showcase Downsview park's commitment to environmental, social and economic sustainability to promote the values of sustainability, stewardship, legacy, beauty and play on which the park is being developed.

### **Parks, Forestry & Recreation, City of Toronto**

n/a

The Natural Environment and Community Programs section of the City of Toronto protects, restores and enhances features and functions of the natural environment within the City of Toronto parks system through its Natural Environmental Programme.

### **Protect our Water and Environmental Resources**

[www.powerhalton.ca](http://www.powerhalton.ca)

Formed in 1987, P.O.W.E.R is a thriving not-for-profit community based organization committed to protecting the environment and the quality of life in North Halton and beyond. P.O.W.E.R works to develop and collaborate on proactive projects, programs, directions and policies that recognize the necessity, importance, value and role of natural spaces, native species, ecosystem function and flows for sustainable communities.

### **Region of Peel Public Works**

[www.peelregion.ca](http://www.peelregion.ca)

The Region of Peel's Public Works Department offers Peel citizens a variety of educational and outreach opportunities designed to promote and encourage proper participation in our water, wastewater, and waste management programs, and foster a more informed community. These opportunities encourage water efficiency, waste reduction and environmental stewardship via outreach at community events, school presentations, facility tours, the Peel EcoFair, the Peel Children's Water Festival, and the Peel Water Story curriculum resource.

### **Sierra Youth Coalition**

[www.syc-cjs.org](http://www.syc-cjs.org)

The Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC) is a by-youth, for-youth non-profit organization working on environmental and social justice issues. SYC is the youth branch of the Sierra Club of Canada. Sustainable Campuses is one of the main initiatives of the Sierra Youth Coalition.

### **Stakeholder Research Associates Canada Inc.**

[www.stakeholderresearch.com](http://www.stakeholderresearch.com)

Stakeholder Research Associates (SRA) brings together a team of academics and expert practitioners who specialize in mobilizing formal and informal channels of stakeholder opinion to senior business, government and civil society leaders in support of effective governance, strategy formulation and integrity-based communications.

### **StraNexus Inc.**

[www.stranexus.ca](http://www.stranexus.ca)

We are Management advisory firm, offering innovative ways to introduce and action best-practices of sustainable development in organizations & businesses in GTA, using practical core needs like: 1) Profit Maximization; 2) Strategic Planning; 3) Corporate Training & 4) Engineered Accounting & Bookkeeping. We provide and educate our clients with the best suited methodologies to have a positive impact on their quality, triple bottom line and service. Triple bottom line includes profitability, environment and community

### **Sustainable Enterprise Academy (SEA)**

The SEA was founded by the Erivan K. Haub Program in Business and Sustainability at the Schulich School of Business, York University. SEA provides Executive Seminars on Corporate Sustainable Development featuring leading-edge thinkers and practitioners. The Academy is North America's premier executive education program on sustainable development.

### **Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation - Children's Garden & Eco Program**

[www.toronto.ca/parks/programs/children.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/parks/programs/children.htm)

The Children's Garden & Eco Programs offer children and youth a chance to learn about, experience, and enjoy urban ecology and organic gardening year-round, in the City of Toronto's parks and ravines, through hands-on creative programming.

### **Toronto Public Health**

[www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

TPH-Environmental Protection Office addresses environmental health issues through research, education, policy development and advocacy. TPH provides information on environmental health issues, including educational resources, technical reports and policy documents.

### **Toronto Solid Waste Management Services**

[www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

The City of Toronto, Solid Waste Management Services division is responsible for the collection and disposal of municipal waste. Several waste diversion programs are operated by SWMS including the Blue box, Green bin and yard waste programs, all of which require regular and varied communication vehicles to the diverse City audiences.

**Toronto Water**

[www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

Toronto Water is a division of The City of Toronto. Toronto Water is responsible for the treatment and distribution of drinking water to the City of Toronto and the Region of York. Toronto Water also collects and treats wastewater and storm water. Educational programs include in school presentations and numerous public education pieces designed to increase awareness in Toronto Water services and programs including water efficiency programs, water quality and storm water management.

**TRCA – Toronto Region Conservation Authority**

[www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca)

TRCA Education is a team of centres and programs whose commitment to excellence in education has spanned 50 years. Our programs are designed to connect learners to their environment through fun and meaningful, hands-on exploration of local systems and sustainable technologies.

**York Region District School Board**

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

York Region District School board serves Markham, Thornhill, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Newmarket, Keswick and Georgina.

**WWF-Canada – World Wildlife fund**

[www.wwf.ca](http://www.wwf.ca)

WWF's mission is to stop degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. We do this by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensure that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

## Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly and is appointed for a five-year term. The Commissioner reports to the Legislative Assembly - not to a political party or to a ministry. The current Commissioner is Gord Miller who was re-appointed for a second five-year term in April 2005.

Just like the Auditor General of Ontario inspects government spending every year, the Environmental Commissioner reviews and reports on the government's compliance with the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

To make sure the EBR is upheld, the Environmental Commissioner and ECO staff:

- Provide public education programs about the EBR.
- Provide assistance to citizens using the EBR.
- Review the use of the Environmental Registry.
- Report annually to the Assembly on how ministries comply with the EBR.
- Review the use of discretion by ministers under the EBR.
- Review how ministries use public input to draft environmental Acts, regulations and policies, and how ministries investigate reported EBR violations.
- If requested, assist the ministries to develop thorough, consistent Statements of Environmental Values (SEVs).
- Monitor the use of appeals and court actions under the EBR.
- \*Review the use of EBR procedures to protect employees who experience reprisals for "whistle-blowing".

### Clearinghouse

One of the ECO's roles is to function as a mailbox and clearinghouse for Review and Investigation Applications. For example, when two Ontario residents want a ministry to review an existing environmental Act, regulation or policy, the ECO's staff will assist with any questions they may have when they're filling out their Application. Then when the applicants have sent their completed Application to the ECO, we forward it to the appropriate ministry or ministries.

### Public Education and Assistance

The education programs of the ECO enhance the goals of the *EBR* by helping the public to participate in protecting their environment. Public participation, in turn, helps to ensure that the government of Ontario implements the *EBR* in an effective, timely, open and fair manner. The structured opportunities for participation provided by the *EBR* - including the right to comment on proposals by using the Environmental Registry - also enhance the public's awareness of the complex tradeoffs that are faced when environmental decisions are made.

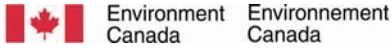
The goal of the ECO's educational programs is a well-informed public, armed with the tools of public participation provided by the *EBR*. A well-informed public can help to ensure that the decisions made by Ontario ministries reflect the environmental values of Ontario residents.



Environmental Commissioner of Ontario  
1075 Bay Street, Suite 605  
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F. 416-325-3370

[www.eco.on.ca](http://www.eco.on.ca)

# Supporters of the Ontario ESD Working Group, the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise in ESD and today's Networking Forum



Ministry of Education  
Ministry of the Environment  
Ministry of Natural Resources



Office of the  
Environmental  
Commissioner of  
Ontario



Morning Refreshment and Break Sponsored by:



Lunch and Afternoon Refreshment Sponsored by:



**Catering:** Green Cuisine  
[mail@vegetariancatering.ca](mailto:mail@vegetariancatering.ca)

We specialize in serving fresh, energizing foods that not only taste incredible, but reflect our values of social responsibility and environmental justice. At Green Cuisine, we strongly believe that the choices we make have an impact on the world. By offering foods that are good for the earth and good for our customers, we hope they are able to walk away feeling that their choice has made a difference.

**Sound, stage and audio-visual:** Palmer Audio [www.palmeraudio.com](http://www.palmeraudio.com)  
**Chair, tables and furnishings:** The Event Centre [www.eventcentre.biz](http://www.eventcentre.biz)