



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



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



May 17, 2004

Minister David Anderson
Minister of the Environment
Environment Canada
10 Wellington St.
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Anderson:

Re: Building on Canada's leadership on POPs

Today marks a day of special celebration as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) enters into force. Our organizations would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Canada on its leadership role throughout the negotiations of the treaty. Recognizing that Canada and its population are vulnerable to the impacts of POPs, Stockholm Convention's vision and intent on elimination of POPs provide a strong foundation that will benefit future generations.

We look to today's entry into force to urge your department and Canada to continue this leadership role. As Canada prepares for the first Conference of the Parties scheduled for 2005, Canada's implementation efforts will take on a new level of urgency. Canada's problems with POPs are extensive. Not only are the "dirty dozen" targeted in the Convention being detected in our Arctic regions impacting wildlife and the human population, but new POPs such as brominated flame retardants are raising concerns because of their extensive use in a variety of consumer products such as clothes, auto parts and electronic equipment.

NGOs identified several key areas that will lead to Canada's success in developing and implementing its obligations under the Convention. Progress on the following will demonstrate Canada's commitment and leadership on POPs.

- **Develop a national implementation plan in a transparent process that includes effective public participation by the First Conference of the Parties in 2005;**
- **Identify, assess and prepare chemical profiles on POPs for nomination at the First Conference of the Parties in 2005;**
- **Initiate a review on the effectiveness of Canada's regime on POPs;**
- **Develop a process that will effectively identify and assess new POPs;**

- **Eliminate POPs from pesticides. There are at least a dozen widely-used pesticides which contain, as so-called “micro-contaminants,” substances banned by the POPs treaty, including DDT, dioxins, furans, PCBs and hexachlorobenzene;**
- **Eliminate POPs emissions from existing sources, including industrial facilities and municipal incinerators;**
- **Direct resources towards POPs implementation efforts**
 - **Review the 2004 federal budget aimed at promoting environmental technologies with an aim to direct funds towards developing and promoting processes and techniques that do not produce POPs by-products,**
 - **Develop and promote safe alternatives to POPs,**
 - **Expand biomonitoring programs to ensure data collection on POPs and other toxic substances,**
 - **Deal with stockpiles of POPs without resorting to thermal remediation,**
- **Monitor and report all POPs;**
- **Increase Canada's financial donation to Canada's POPs Fund and encourage other nations to provide financial support to implementation efforts; and**
- **Encourage other nations in the developed and developing world, particularly U.S., Russia and China, to ratify and implement the convention.**

Your continued leadership in this area will set the mark for other Parties to follow. We look forward to working with you on this file over the next year.

Yours truly,

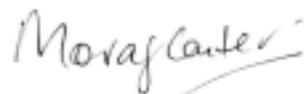


for

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