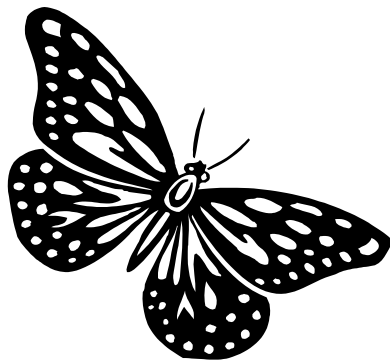


# Manitoba Eco-Network 2001-2002 Annual Report



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### Steering Committee Members

John Sinclair, Resource Conservation Manitoba (Chair)  
Scott Kidd, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (Vice-chair, Secretary)  
Steve Rauh, Campaign for Pesticide Reduction! Wpg (Treasurer)  
Amanda Aziz, University of Manitoba Recycling & Environment Group  
Glen Koroluk, Winnipeg Water Watch  
Joseph Prymak, eco-MAFIA  
Peter Walker, MFL Environment Committee (until December, 2001)

### Staff

Anne Lindsey, Executive Director  
Liz Dykman, Coordinator  
Larry Laliberte, Librarian  
Jennifer Duggan, Climate Change Connection  
Glen Koroluk, Contractor  
Audrey Friesen, Bookkeeper

## **Chair's Report**

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### **Activities**

##### **Public Education**

The Eco-Journal, published five times during the year, was a focus of our education to our individual members, member groups and the general public. Approximately 800 copies of each edition were distributed by mail, at designated stores and restaurants, and through public displays. Highlights included extensive coverage of climate change issues, the East Side of Lake Winnipeg planning process, and the Simplot potato processing plant proposal and hearings.

The development and maintenance of the MEN website was taken on by Liz, and its use has been increasing. The site is updated at least weekly to contain information on the newest public registry files, action alerts, job postings, consultations and government documents. Sections of the website contain information on climate change, and links to current biotechnology and food safety information. The Eco-Journal articles are now made available on the website as well.

We received regular information requests by phone and email. A tracking system was put in place to record the volume of requests and types of information being sought. We received and responded to over 300 information requests.

Larry made a presentation at the University of Winnipeg on the topic of the public registry system. Another presentation was given to a class of students from the Natural Resources Institute dealing with environmental assessment and the public registry. These presentations resulted in an increase in library use.

With the aid of a Library and Information Technology student Jessica Wachal, on field placement from Red River College, materials from the public registry that had been archived have been indexed to increase their accessibility to member groups working on related current developments.

A public access internet terminal for environmental research is now available in our library through a grant from the Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation.

The library continues to improve under Larry's care, with the electronic catalogue of materials now fully indexed. Work was done to make connections with other environment-related libraries in the vicinity including the International Institute of Sustainable Development, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, Manitoba Conservation and the Institute of Urban Studies.

Anne attended a "Seedy Saturday" event, providing information on organic lawn care and connecting with many people interested in chemical-free alternatives. Liz developed a display about our services and projects, which she set up at events held by Project Peacemakers and the Consumers' Association, as well as Environmental Awareness Week at both the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba

## **Capacity Building**

The MEN member database was updated and converted to Access format to facilitate efficient, accurate mailout of the Eco-Journal. Our databases of member groups, Eco-Journal advertisers and volunteers were also converted to Access format by Liz.

A project was initiated to expand linkages with local high school libraries. The initial research was done to make contacts and determine what kinds of linkages could be made with each of the local high school libraries. We met with students from Grant Park High School, who are willing to help us in developing this pilot project.

We convened a preliminary planning meeting for a proposed GIS Mapping Project to be housed at Manitoba Eco-Network. The purpose of this project would be capacity building for the ENGO community to enable use of GIS technologies and map production for educational purposes, presentations and displays and data analysis.

Manitoba Eco-Network collected information on Manitoba ENGO's for a directory being prepared by our parent organization, the Canadian Environmental Network. The information will be compiled into a national environmental directory, which will be available for purchase.

Anne continued to participate in conference calls with other staff from prairie affiliates of the Canadian Environmental Network and our National Steering Committee representative.

## **Consultations and Government Liaison**

Anne represented Manitoba Eco-Network on the City of Winnipeg Weed Control Advisory Committee, which sought input on ways to decrease the use of chemicals in the City's turf management programs.

Anne attended a consultation regarding the Canadian Information System on the Environment.

Manitoba Eco-Network hosted a preliminary consultation meeting for the Voluntary Sector Initiative and participated in further consultations.

Anne also assisted the City of Winnipeg Environment Coordinator in the design of a participant selection process for the Civic Environmental Committee and acted as a member of the selection committee.

Anne continued to participate in a series of teleconference calls with other affiliate network representatives from the Prairie and Northern region and regional officials with Environment Canada, including Regional Director General, Jim Vollmershausen. These informal calls are valuable opportunities to share information between the Networks and Environment Canada.

## **Project Work**

Manitoba Eco-Network worked extensively on the development of a Climate Change Public Education and Outreach Hub for Manitoba – now called the Climate Change Connection. Eco-Network is hosting the project and co-chairing the initiative with the Fort Whyte Centre. A multi-stakeholder consultation was organized jointly by Manitoba Conservation, Climate Change Branch and Manitoba Eco-Network to gather ideas from various sectors, including youth, agriculture, government, academic, health and ENGO, regarding the proposed role and activities of the Hub. A steering committee was established and is directing the activities of the project. The Climate Change Connection is housed within Manitoba Eco-Network as well as receiving administrative and information services from us.

As part of our own climate change project, MEN organized several meetings of interested parties regarding climate change issues in order to formulate an ENGO response to the Climate Change Task Force Report. MEN has hired Glen Koroluk to solicit input from the ENGO community and prepare recommendations for the implementation of the Task Force Report.

The Organic Lawn Care Project for 2001-2002 was carried out by our summer staff, Jonah Clarke and Matt Irvine, who were hired through grants from Human Resources Development Canada and Urban Green Team. They conducted 8 public education workshops which were attended by 89 people. Displays were also set up at 7 local community events with around 335 people visiting these displays. Media coverage of the workshops included 2 live television segments on the A-Channel.

Manitoba Eco-Network has a joint proposal with our member group Hogwatch Manitoba for research and education work on issues related to the expansion of industrial agriculture in the province.

## **Alliance Building**

In November the Manitoba Eco-Network organized a Member Group Forum which brought together environmental groups in the province to discuss common issues, including: obstacles facing environmental groups, funding issues, communication within the environmental community, opportunities for collaboration, strategies for capacity building and engaging more people. Facilitated breakout groups generated many ideas and provided suggestions on future work to be undertaken to develop the capacity of environmental groups in Manitoba.

We facilitated the gathering of groups interested in Hydro issues to discuss responses to the Wuskwatim Generating Station and Transmission Project proposals.

Manitoba Eco-Network held a meeting for member groups to discuss the proposed changes to Manitoba's Environment Act. Individuals with legal expertise and extensive knowledge of environmental assessment were available to explain the implications of the proposed changes.

Anne and Liz attended a meeting in Winnipeg of the Canadian Environmental Network Mining Caucus and an informational meeting on climate change with Elizabeth May of the Sierra Club of Canada.

Liz attended a board meeting of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre to make them more familiar with our organization and our programs.

## **Funders**

Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to acknowledge and thank our funders over the past year who are as follows:

Core Funding: Manitoba Conservation

Environment Canada / Canadian Environmental Network  
The City of Winnipeg Employees Charitable Fund  
Thomas Sill Foundation Gifts-in-Kind Program  
The George Cedric Metcalfe Charitable Foundation (Eco-Journal Grant)  
The United Way Donor Designated Gifts Campaign

Climate Change Project: Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund

Climate Change Connection: Federal Climate Change Action Fund  
Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund  
Manitoba Hydro

Library Development Project: Anonymous Donor  
Assiniboine Credit Union  
EJLB Foundation  
Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation  
Sustainable Development Innovations Fund  
Thomas Sill Foundation  
Winnipeg Foundation  
TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment

Livestock Research Project: Anonymous Donation

Manitoba Wildlands Project: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

Organic Lawn Care Workshops: EJLB Foundation  
Human Resource Development Canada  
Urban Green Team  
City of Winnipeg  
Green Communities Association  
Dan Moroz (in kind donation)

Regular Eco-Journal Advertisers:  
Assiniboine Credit Union  
Dragonfly Massage and Bodywork  
Environment Canada

Harry's Foods  
House of Nutrition  
Tall Grass Prairie Bakery

Our sincere appreciation to all our generous individual donors and supporters in the community whose contributions help to maintain the Manitoba Eco-network and our services.

### **Volunteers**

We also wish to thank the many volunteers who helped to keep the organization running. They are the people who came in to help in the office (Sylvie Hebert, Kevan Bowkett, Blanche Denechezhe, Kate Dykman), write for the Eco-Journal, or provide valuable advice and feedback (our fabulous Steering Committee). Thank you so much!

## **2001-2002 Member Groups**

Boreal Forest Network  
Campaign For Pesticide Reduction! Winnipeg  
Canadian Nature Federation  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association (CPAWS)  
Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba  
Coalition to Save the Elms  
Committee for Church in Society  
Consumers for Responsible Energy (CoRE)  
EcoMAFIA (Eco Males and Females In Action, U of W)  
Fort Whyte Centre  
Hogwatch Manitoba  
Institute of Urban Studies  
International Institute for Sustainable Development  
Manitoba Federation of Labour  
Manitoba Naturalists Society  
Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association  
Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Mixedwood Forest Research and Advisory Committee  
Organic Food Council of Manitoba  
Project Peacemakers  
Resource Conservation Manitoba  
Save Our Seine Environment Inc.  
Speleological Society of Manitoba  
Students for Sustainability (U of M)  
The International Coalition  
Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems (TREE)  
University of Manitoba Environmental Science Program  
University of Manitoba Recycling & Environment Group  
United Nations Association in Canada (Wpg Branch)  
Western Canada Wilderness Committee  
Winnipeg Water Watch  
Winnipeg Vegetarian Association  
Woodlot Association of Manitoba