

Environment

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Cabinet shuffle

Baird replaces Ambrose in environment portfolio

By KENNETH POLE

Ottawa MP John Baird, former President of the Treasury Board, has replaced Rona Ambrose in the environment portfolio after only 11 months. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, calling his first cabinet shuffle an opportunity to “put some people in areas where maybe they were a little more suited”, reassigned Ambrose to intergovernmental affairs.

The Edmonton MP had been besieged through most of her previous mandate, notably for her handling of the draft *Clean Air Act*, which pushed back deadlines for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. She also was pilloried for simply acknowledging Canada’s patent inability to meet emissions targets agreed to under the *Kyoto Protocol*.

The initial response to Bill C-30 was so negative that it was sent to a legislative committee for review within weeks of its Oct. 19 introduction. New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton, whose caucus support is fundamental to the long-term survival of Harper’s Conservative minority, has threatened to defeat the government on the issue.

Pressure on the government was exacerbated by a year-end Decima Research poll suggesting that the environment had become Canadians’ paramount concern. Baird acknowledged that priority and seemed optimistic, despite his combative approach to parliamentary debate, that he can work with other MPs and the environmental movement to bring consensus to the issue in general and C-30 in particular.

“If we just put aside who will get the credit and focused on pushing the ball forward, I think we can do great things,” he said. “I had a great experience over the last 12 months working on the *Federal Accountability Act*. I learned the importance of compromise.”

The shuffle was accompanied by the creation of a cabinet committee on environment and energy security, chaired by

Indian Affairs & Northern Development Minister Jim Prentice, who has been the Harper administration’s key liaison with the petroleum industry.

Baird is vice-chair and the other members are Ambrose, Maxime Bernier (Industry), Lawrence Cannon (Transport), Tony Clement (Health), Loyola Hearn (Fisheries & Oceans), Gary Lunn (Natural Resources), Chuck Strahl (Agriculture & Agri-Food), Peter Van Loan (House Leader) and, *ex officio*, Jim Flaherty (Finance) and Vic Toews (Treasury Board).

Harper said the committee not only would continue “extensive consultation” with industry and various federal departments on C-30, but also work on “broader measures affecting the environment.”

He initially demurred when asked to be more specific about climate change but a few days later, after saying that he had ac-

cepted the science of climate change, pointed out that Canada is projected to be more than 50 per cent beyond its *Kyoto Protocol* just five years hence.

“We can’t tell the Canadian population to heat their home one-third less of the time . . . so we’ve got a major challenge,” Harper said. That would include “realistic” emissions targets for industry. “I don’t think we want the taxpayer being the one to clean up air quality.”

Liberal environment critic John Godfrey, a former mayor of Toronto, said while the fate of C-30 is in the committee’s hands, its future is fundamentally in Harper’s hands.

“Will he give Mr. Baird more room to manoeuvre?” Godfrey rhetorized. “Will he actually . . . allow us to put in Kyoto-related targets? What is the point of talking about climate change if you’re not going to be an active part of the only international agreement which covers climate change, which is the Kyoto agreement? And if you’re not prepared to at least try over the short term to improve the record, then this isn’t going to work.”

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, who watches daily House of Commons proceedings from the diplomatic gallery and says Baird’s “boorish” behaviour would “appall” most Canadians, is skeptical.

“I’m used to the idea that question period can be raucous, but generally people . . . in the ministerial rank behave with a certain decorum which Mr. Baird has not yet schooled himself in,” she said.

Describing Baird as “very anti-Kyoto” when he was Ontario’s energy minister, May said she told him he had to commit to the 1997 climate change protocol because it is a legally-binding treaty.

Godfrey agreed, saying the Liberals’ “absolute bottom line” is climate change. “We will work with the government to put forward real change to bring on the sense of urgency in this country,” he said.

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Editorial

Guess who's toxic

It shouldn't have come as a great surprise to anyone that the most recent testing by Environmental Defence of the blood of four federal politicians found the presence of a significant number of toxic pollutants.

Analysis of voluntary blood samples taken from recently shuffled environment minister Rona Ambrose, Health Minister Tony Clement, Liberal Party environment critic John Godfrey and New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton found a total of 61 toxic chemicals.

The testing identified 18 polybrominated diphenyl ethers, 13 polychlorinated biphenyls, 10 organochlorine pesticides, five heavy metals and three organophosphate insecticide metabolites. (A full report on the results of the tests is available at <http://www.toxicnation.ca>)

"Our tests show that pollution affects everyone," commented Environmental Defence executive director Rick Smith. "Harmful pollutants are contaminating the bodies of Canadians, no matter where they live, how old they are, or where they work, play, or go to school."

Some might argue that politicians themselves are a form of pollution, and that a clean-up of these toxic elements on Parliament Hill would be beneficial for both the environment and Canadians' health.

In addition, the significant reduction in hot air emanating from Ottawa that would produce could make a valuable contribution to Canada's efforts to address the climate change issue, both in terms of developing a credible policy (which no government to date has managed) and actually reducing emissions.

All joking aside, it is difficult to understand how report after report on the horrible things that are happening to our environment don't make more of an impression on our elected officials.

It is even more difficult to understand when politicians themselves are the ones shown to be experiencing negative effects. Self-interest is something they usually have in spades.

News

B.C. updates used tire approach

VICTORIA — Tire Stewardship BC (TSBC) launched Jan. 1 an industry-led tire recycling program, coinciding with the end of the government-led Financial Incentives for Recycling Scrap Tires (FIRST) program, in place since 1991.

For consumers, the new stewardship model is similar to the government-led FIRST program, as they will continue to pay an eco-fee on new tires and return used tires for recycling and further processing.

As part of the new plan, TSBC will replace the existing FIRST fee with a fee schedule that is based on the collection and processing costs of each tire product. For most consumers, this will increase the fee from \$3 to \$4 per tire. The revenue generated by TSBC will be used exclusively to support tire collection and recycling.

TSBC is a registered non-profit association and represents the majority of the tire producers in British Columbia. TSBC's directors are from the Rubber Association of Canada, Retail Council of Canada and Western Canada Tire Dealers Association.

Additional highlights of the new program include:

- an R&D program focussed on market development to ensure environmentally efficient and economically viable markets for products from scrap tires;
- a public education program to communicate the benefits of reduction, re-use and recycling, as well as the specific tire-related benefits associated with improved vehicle and tire maintenance;
- a clean-up program to ensure stockpiles are remediated; and
- a formal dispute resolution process, incorporating both mediation and arbitration, to ensure that disputes are resolved in a timely, fair and impartial manner.

Tire industry product stewardship is regulated by the provincial Recycling Regulation. The regulation makes industry responsible for life-cycle management of the tires they sell in B.C., including funding used tire collection and recycling. The plan is consistent with government's policy of shifting the onus for product life-cycle management from local governments and general taxpayers to industry and consumers.

For more information, visit <http://www.tirestewardshipbc.ca> e-mail info@stewardshipbc.ca or call 1-866-759-0488.

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Environmental regulation

Environment Canada implementing sector-specific emissions initiatives

Environment Canada's regulatory machinery continues to grind out sector-specific initiatives designed to control emissions and discharges for environmental and/or health reasons.

It has designated polybrominated diphenyl ethers as well as perfluorooctane sulfonate and its salts and their precursors as toxic substances. "The addition of these substances to the List of Toxic Substances (LTS) is justified considering that there have been no additional data or information presented to contradict the scientific conclusion of the assessment reports," the department said in the Dec. 27 **Canada Gazette** (<http://canadagazette.gc.ca>).

The same issue of the **Gazette** included restrictions on the use of 2-butoxyethanol in products designed for indoor use. The regulations, which take effect next December for import and manufacture and 12 months later for sale or offer for sale, evidently would ensure that exposure would not exceed levels considered "tolerable" by a scientific review committee.

Used in a wide range of consumer and institutional products such as cleaners, coatings, cosmetics and pesticides, 2-butoxyethanol was added to the Schedule 1 *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA) LTS last March. This was after a scientific assessment concluded in 2003 that chronic exposure could seriously alter blood chemistry.

Some changes to a July 2005 draft were incorporated in the final version, notably an exemption for professional and commercial uses not available directly to consumers. The department agreed to a limited environ-

mental performance agreement that ensures that paint and coatings are limited to industrial and commercial application.

Industry complaints that the regulations would not harmonize with European Union or U.S. (the latter recently removed 2-butoxyethanol from its Hazardous Air Pollutant list) standards were dismissed.

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency removed 2-butoxyethanol from their Hazardous Air Pollutant list because concentrations of 2-butoxyethanol in ambient air are below levels of concern," the department explained. "However, 2-butoxyethanol has not been addressed in the context of indoor air applications in the United States or in Europe."

Dec. 30 saw publication of draft regulations designed to curb smog-related emissions by marine engines and off-road recreational vehicles, which have been shown to contribute significantly to atmospheric levels of hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.

The initiative would fulfill Canada's commitments under the Ozone Annex to the 1991 *Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement* and enhance compliance with ground-level ozone and fine particulates targets in the *Canada-wide Standards for Particulate Matter and Ozone*.

"In addition to the health and environmental benefits, the proposed regulations would create a level playing field for companies supplying the Canada-U.S. market," the department said.

The marine engine element of the package also would align domestic standards with those in the U.S., facilitating importa-

tion of certified engines and vehicles.

The Dec. 30 **Gazette** also included a notice of Environment Canada's intent to develop and implement CEPA regulations on renewable content in vehicle and home heating fuels. It follows up on a ministerial proposal 10 days earlier to require refiners and importers to have at least five per cent average annual renewable content (AARC) in all gasolines by 2010 and at least a two per cent AARC in diesel fuel and home heating fuel by 2012.

Design and implementation of the regulations is expected to require considerable consultation with provinces, territories, industry and other stakeholders. Talks could begin in the next few months, with a view to draft regulations being published by fall of 2008.

"Achieving a renewable volume equal to five per cent of Canada's transportation fuel pool would result in an additional 1.9 billion liters of renewable fuels per year, over and above the effects of provincial regulations already in place," the department said. "This represents incremental life-cycle greenhouse gas emission reductions of 2.7 million tonnes per year", which equates to nearly 675,000 vehicles being taken out of service.

Early entry into renewable fuels markets offers economic opportunities, especially to agricultural producers, the department said.

"Canada is already a leader in the use of bio-based products, producing six per cent of energy needs from biomass, double the rate produced in either the United States or the European Union."

Climate change

CIBC report suggests Canadian provinces, U.S. states will act on CO₂

Mounting frustration with the approach to climate change taken by the governments of Canada and the United States has prompted Jeff Rubin, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's chief economist, to suggest that provincial, territorial and state administrations will be compelled to act.

His expectation flows from the California

government's recent decision to cap carbon dioxide emissions and allow major polluters to purchase emissions offset credits.

"While North America has ignored implementing the *Kyoto Protocol*, public concern about global warming is growing," Rubin says in *The Carbon Wars* (on-line at http://research.cibcwm.com/economic_

[public/download/mijan07.pdf](http://research.cibcwm.com/economic_public/download/mijan07.pdf)). "I expect this will force governments to declare war on carbon emissions on their own terms."

He says the energy sector will be most affected, especially in Canada where it accounts for a fifth of the country's CO₂ emissions, a proportion that can only increase with development of Alberta's oilsands.

Provincial Regulatory Update

* unchanged from last month

* Newfoundland

- The Multi-Materials Stewardship Board is implementing the final phase of a tire recycling program.
- The final phase of the province's new approach to used tire recycling is being developed.

* Prince Edward Island

- A new forest policy has been introduced.
- The environment ministry has made changes to its Investigation and Enforcement Section to improve services.
- Pesticide regulations are being amended to clarify transportation requirements and phase in certification.

* Nova Scotia

- A new policy for environmental laboratories is intended to better protect public health.
- Amendments to the *Environment Act* were tabled in the provincial legislature in early May.
- Septic sewage disposal regulations are being developed.
- The province has updated its soil and water remedial criteria for domestic fuel oil spills.

* New Brunswick

- A new initiative is being developed to help manage industrial emissions of volatile organic compounds.
- Changes to the province's environmental impact assessment process make it more streamlined.
- A new act would allow the establishing and management of protected natural areas.
- A waste paint program is under development.

* Quebec

- Bill 118, the *Sustainable Development Act*, has been approved.
- The draft Air Quality Regulation has been published in the province's official *Gazette* for comments, and public input is being analyzed.

Ontario

- Environment Minister Laurel Broten has directed creation of a recycling program for home hazardous wastes. (Story, page 921)
- The government is proposing improvements to environmental assessment of waste projects.
- The government has passed the new *Clean Water Act* into law.
- The Ontario government will work with the northeast states to coordinate air use management.
- Ontario is not prepared for the consequences of climate change, warns Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller in his annual report to the provincial legislature.

* Manitoba

- Legislation would simplify the process of registering wind turbine easements and searching titles.
- New regulations would govern tire recycling.
- A new strategy proposes making new commercial buildings more energy efficient.

Saskatchewan

- The provincial government has announced a new, province-wide recycling program for e-wastes. (Story, page 921)
- The province is developing comprehensive legislation for the return of decommissioned mine and mill sites.
- The province is providing a grant to support regional waste management systems.
- Evaluation and selection of projects for SaskPower's Environmentally Preferred Power program has been initiated.

* Alberta

- An independent scientific panel will evaluate protection of rural water wells from coalbed methane development.
- Alberta can play a major role in the global energy sector for the long term, says a government strategy.
- The province is dedicating \$200 million over three years to research and environmental protection projects.
- Amendments to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* aim to keep the statute stringent.
- Alberta Environment plans two initiatives as part of its ongoing drinking water strategy.

British Columbia

- An industry-led tire recycling program was launched on Jan. 1. (Story, page 918)
- Provincial land use decisions for the Central and North Coast will preserve critical ecological areas.
- An expanded energy plan is designed to set a new vision for the electricity, oil and gas and alternative energy sectors.
- The *Environmental Management Act Amendment Act* is intended to speed up the rehabilitation of the province's contaminated sites.

* Northwest Territories

- Standards based on the Model National Energy Code have been adopted for design and construction of new government buildings.
- Consultations on the **Energy for the Future** discussion paper are to end this fall, followed by preparation of an energy policy.
- Amendments are being drafted to the Beverage Container Regulations on delegation of authority and administration of depots.
- A revised Greenhouse Gas Strategy and implementation plan are being prepared.

* Yukon

- Amendments are forthcoming for the Beverage Container Regulation, Contaminated Sites Regulation and Ozone-Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbon Regulation.
- The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* has come into force, providing a single assessment process that will apply to all land in the territory.

* Nunavut

- A government-industry partnership is working to develop plans for water, waste water and solid waste facilities in Nunavut communities.

Federal Regulatory Update

Legislation

Parliament is scheduled to resume sitting Jan. 29.

Regulations

Canada Gazette, Part I (proposed)

- * Ozone-depleting Substances Regulations (amendments) Dec. 29, 2004 (Gazette, Part II, actual)
- * New Substances Notification Regulations Oct. 30, 2004 (Gazette, Part I, actual)
- * Sulphur in Diesel Fuel Regulations Oct. 2, 2004 (Gazette, Part I, actual)
- * Hexavalent Chromium Finishing Regulations Nov. 6, 2004 (Gazette, Part I, actual)
- * PCB Waste Import and Export Regulations
- * Interprovincial Movement of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Material Regulations
- * Metal Mining Effluent Regulations
- * Export of Substances Under the Rotterdam Convention Regulations
- * Federal Hazardous Wastes Regulations
- * Federal Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Storage Tank Systems Regulations
- * Off Road Diesel Engine Emissions Regulations
- * Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Regulations
- * Amendments to the Storage of PCB Regulations
- * Export and Import of Hazardous Waste Regulations - Amendment
- * Marine Engine Regulations
- * Spill Reporting Regulations
- * Large Spark Ignition Engine Regulations
- * Export and Import of Prescribed Non-Hazardous Wastes Destined for Final Disposal Regs
- * New Substances and Notifications Regulations
- * Species at Risk Regulations
- * Migratory Birds Regulations
- * Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations
- * Wildlife Areas (NWA) Regulations
- * Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations

***unchanged from last month**

For information on the regulations listed above, contact: Anne Dufresne, (819) 953-1169, or Michael Wilson, (613) 997-9011

Provincial News

Alberta

Alberta Environment funds Emerald Foundation stewardship endowment

EDMONTON — The Alberta Emerald Foundation is to set up an endowment fund to foster further environmental stewardship through a \$1 million grant from Alberta Environment. The grant will provide more support and encouragement for Albertans who engage in environmental excellence.

“We need to see what environmental leaders are doing so that we can be in-

spired to take action,” said Alberta Environment Minister Guy Boutilier.

Since 1991, the Alberta Emerald Foundation’s core mandate has been the recognition of outstanding environmental achievement through its premier event, the Emerald Awards. This grant is the first step in expanding the foundation’s mandate and establishing the Centre for

Environmental Excellence.

“We plan to develop youth-based and outreach programming and create an extensive Web site database of projects,” said Ron Kruhlik, chair of the foundation’s resources development committee.

For more information about the Alberta Emerald Foundation, visit <http://www.emeraldfoundation.ca>

Document outlines priorities for five-year fisheries management plan

EDMONTON — Alberta has put the finishing touches on a document to guide planning and priority-setting for fisheries management over the next five years.

The **Fish Conservation Strategy for Alberta 2006-10** is a “big picture” framework document aimed at ensuring that Alberta’s fisheries are managed in a sustainable way and continue to provide many benefits to residents. Albertans provided input on a draft version.

“Many stakeholders provided input . . . including nearly 400 residents who participated in an on-line survey,” said Sustainable Resource Development Minister David Couths.

The strategy describes the vision, goals and guiding principles for fisheries management and fish conservation for the next five years. It also outlines strategic approaches that provincial fisheries staff will take regarding fish stocking, habitat con-

servation, fish population surveys, public education and outreach, development of additional opportunities to harvest fish, and domestic, recreational and commercial use of Alberta’s fisheries resource.

To view the strategy, visit the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development website at <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/fishing/index.html>

For information, contact, Dave Ealey, (780) 427-8636.

Ontario

Environment Minister Broten mandates home hazardous wastes recycling

TORONTO — Environment Minister Laurel Broten has directed Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), the industry-funded organization responsible for Ontario’s Blue Box program, to develop and fund a diversion program for hazardous and special wastes from homes and small businesses.

WDO is to study financial or other incentives to reuse and recycle hazardous materials

such as leftover paint and chemicals and to increase the number of collection sites. The organization is to promote best practices and encourage innovative diversion techniques, as well as develop an education program.

Materials will be added to the program in three phases, starting with paints, solvents, pesticides, disposable batteries and used oil filters and containers. WDO’s

plan for phase one must be delivered to the minister by May 31.

Future phases will include portable fire extinguishers, fluorescent lights, pharmaceuticals, syringes and thermostats and other devices containing mercury.

The minister’s letter is available on-line at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/land/wda/mhsw.htm>

Saskatchewan

Province first to launch industry-led electronic waste recycling program

REGINA — The provincial government has announced a new province-wide recycling program for end-of-life electronics, making Saskatchewan the first province with an industry-led e-waste recycling program.

Saskatchewan residents will be able to drop off unwanted computers, monitors, printers, and televisions at 71 SARCAN facilities across the province. The Saskatche-

wan Waste Electronic Equipment Program (SWEEP), a non-profit organization representing electronic equipment manufacturers and retailers, has contracted SARCAN to deliver the collection and recycling program.

“Recycling is an environmentally effective way to dispose or re-use e-waste and to keep toxic substances from the environment,” said Environment Minister John Nilson.

As of Feb. 1, all purchasers of computers (desktop and notebook), computer monitors, desktop printers and televisions were to pay an “eco-fee” that will be collected by SWEEP to finance the program.

Eco-fees range from \$5 to \$12 for computers and related components and \$15 to \$45 for televisions.

For more information, contact Traci Braaten, (306) 787-1611.

New Ontario spills regulation may have significant impact

By MICHAEL FORTIER
and
TYSON DYCK

Last fall, Ontario's Ministry of the Environment simultaneously released the proposed Spill Prevention and Contingency Plans Regulation (Spill Regulation) and the proposed Environmental Penalties Regulation (EP Regulation).

With both these proposals being announced at the same time, it appears that the spill regulation has not yet received the attention it deserves.

This regulation, if implemented by the provincial government in its current form, would essentially require "regulated persons" (as defined in the EP Regulation) to develop and implement spill prevention and contingency plans for each plant they own or operate by Feb. 1, 2008.

Generally, a regulated person would be someone who owns or controls a plant that either is in a Municipal/Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) sector, which includes the electric power generation, metal mining and pulp and paper sectors, or is a "MISA-type" plant.

The spill regulation would require regulated persons to prepare written plans that identify all spills that may occur at a plant or relate to the plant's operations, that are reasonably foreseeable and that have the potential to cause adverse effects.

The likelihood of such environmental spills would have to be analyzed to identify the steps that will be or have been taken to prevent them and outline procedures to ensure that such steps are implemented.

Spill response plans would also have to be prepared that would include for each spill identified, written procedures outlining how the plant would respond to that kind of spill and what steps the plant would take to prevent or ameliorate any adverse effects that would or may result from such a mishap.

Regulated persons would be required to review their spill response plans after a spill and, in any event, at least every year. If these reviews determine that the plans are inadequate for prevention or response, the regulated person would be required to make improvements to them.

If the regulation comes into force, it may affect regulated persons in a number of significant ways.

For example, such persons would not only have to prepare the plans, but also to implement any steps necessary to mitigate risks identified in the plans.

The regulation may also ultimately affect a regulated person's use of the due diligence defence in environmental prosecutions, for example, by potentially raising the standards that apply in the affected industry.

Written plans would also provide evidence with respect to whether a particular spill was reasonably foreseeable.

Michael Fortier and Tyson Dyck are associates in the environmental, health and safety group at Torys LLP.

Long-awaited Fisheries Act fails to address key issues

By PAUL CASSIDY

In December, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) released a long awaited overhaul to the *Fisheries Act*. The Act has been characterized as Canada's most important environmental legislation, but also as being terribly out of date. The habitat protection and pollution provisions, in particular, have been in need of modernizing for some time.

Does this new Act do the job? Not really.

It does provide for some regulation-making powers that can be used by DFO to bring some coherency to the chaotic approval regime for those activities that are likely to cause the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat.

In a previous column, it was noted that DFO has devised "operational statements" that purport to give guidance on when a HADD will or is likely to occur, and whether a HADD authorization is or is not required. The new Act will give these statements the legal teeth of a regulation – a debatable necessity.

It also modernizes some enforcement powers to make them consistent with those found in the new *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), reducing the irritating circumstances when it was found that an officer under CEPA could take certain action(s) to enforce that legislation but a fisheries officer, often concerned with the same harm to the environment, could not.

The new Act also provides a new definition of what constitutes a "deleterious substance" for the "spill" offences. The new definition will make for some interesting legal debate about its meaning, but appears to provide better direction that the focus is to be on the receiving water impacts, not hypothetical lab test results.

But, sadly, the new legislation fails to deal with more difficult issues that would have provided greater clarity and direction for habitat management and pollution prevention.

For instance, the Act still does nothing to state what exactly is a HADD. The opportunity to at least codify and settle some of the conflicting case law around these issues was missed. Further, it fails to provide a clear permitting regime for HADD circumstances.

The new Act makes it an offence to fail to comply with a HADD authorization (arguably a redundant amendment), and there should have been a complete overhaul of the HADD provision by simply (after defining in clear terms what amounts to a HADD) stating that it is an offence to cause a HADD without a permit. This would have made the Act consistent with many similar provincial statutes.

Instead, authorizations or permits to cause a HADD remain not legally required. All an authorization does under the current Act is to give the holder a defence to a prosecution.

Of course, discussion of the new Act's shortcomings may well be for naught if the Tory minority government fails to survive long enough to pass the legislation. But inasmuch as future governments try again to modernize this legislation, it is to be hoped that a more robust effort will be undertaken.

Paul Cassidy practices environmental law with Vancouver law firm Blakes LLP.

Calendar

FEBRUARY

Mid-month: Confirmation expected that Bali will be the host country for the 13th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations *Framework Convention on Climate Change* and 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the *Kyoto Protocol*.

5-6: International Conference: Roads & Environment. Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland. For information: Andy Bastienne, International Road Referation, tel. 011-41-22-306-0260, fax: 011-41-22-306-0270 or e-mail: abastienne@irfnet.org

27-March 2: European Wind Energy Association conference. Milan, Italy. For information: EWEC organizer, tel: 011-32-2546-1980, fax: 011-32-2546-1944, e-mail: info@ewea.org or Internet: <http://www2.ewea.org>

MARCH

5-6: Canadian Energy Research Institute natural gas conference. Telus Convention Centre, Calgary, Alta. For information: Julie Staple, CERI, tel: (403) 220-2380, fax: (403) 289-2344 or e-mail: jstaple@ceri.ca

20-22: AMERICANA 2007 7th biennial environmental technology Trade show and conference. Viger Hall, Convention Centre, Montreal, Que. For information: Andrea Morales, tel: (514) 270-7110 ext. 236 or e-mail: amorales@reseau-environnement.com

APRIL:

10-12: ManOMin Watershed Conference on "balancing aboriginal knowledge and contemporary science". Holiday Inn, International Falls, Minn. For information: Adam Scott, tel: (807) 482-2479 ext. 224, fax: (807) 482-2603 pr e-mail: a.scott@bellnet.ca

16-17: Canadian Environmental Conference and Tradeshow. Metro Convention Centre South Bldg., Toronto, Ont. For information: Steve Davey, tel: (905) 727-4666, fax: (905) 841-7271 or e-mail: steve@esemag.com

MAY

15-17: Making the Connection: Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River tributaries and wetlands. NavCanada Training Institute, Cornwall, Ont. For information: Christina Collard, tel: (613) 936-6620 ext. 222, fax: (613) 936-1803.

24-25: Collaborating in Africa: New approaches in Water Sector (en français). Palais des Congrès, Gatineau, Que. For information: Dr. Nlombi Kibi, tel: (613) 562-5800, ext. 3982, fax: (613) 562-5873 or nkibi@uottawa.ca

29-June 1: Wastetech 2007, 5th waste management conference and trade fair. International Exhibition Centre, Moscow, Russia. For information: Sergey Malygin, tel: 011-7-495-101-4621, fax: 011-7-495-101-4621 or e-mail: s.malygin@sibico.ca

JUNE

3-15: 14th Meeting of the Parties to the UN *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora*. The Netherlands. For information: CITES Secretariat, tel: 011-41-22-917-8139, fax: 011-41-22-797-3417, e-mail: cites@unep.ch or Internet: <http://www.cites.org>

4-8: 4th Dubrovnik Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water & Environment Systems. Hotel Exelsior, Dubrovnik, Croatia. For information: Zvonimir Guzovic, Tel: 011-385-1-616-8532, fax: 011-385-1-615-6940 or e-mail: dubrovnik2007@fsb.hr

11-12: Science Buildings Canada 2007 will showcase concepts and costs associated with long-life buildings. Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ont. For information: Bill Nothofer, tel: (925) 254-1744, fax: (925) 254-1093 or e-mail: canada2007@tradelineinc.com

15-17: Conference on Sustainable Social & Ecosystem Stewardship. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ont. For information: Dr. Sanjay Sharma, tel: (519) 884-0710, fax: (519) 884-0201 or e-mail: june2007@greeningofindustry.org

18-20: International Forum on Applied Sustainable Development. University of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Que. For information: M,lanie McDonald, tel: (819) 821-8000 ext. 65163, fax: (819) 821-7058 or e-mail: rvdd@usherbrooke.ca

SEPTEMBER

20-22: West Coast Green residential building conference and exposition. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, Calif. For information: tel: (800) 724-4880 or e-mail: info@westcoastgreen.com

NOVEMBER

Dates and venue to be confirmed: 8th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN *Convention to Combat Desertification*. Spain. For information: UNCCD Secretariat, tel: 011-49-228-815-2800, fax: 011-49-228-815-2898, e-mail: secretariat@unccd.int or Internet: <http://www.unccd.int>