



young environmental professionals

An Introduction to YEP

Young Environmental Professionals of Canada (YEP) began in December 1998 and is a national organization that consists of local chapters dedicated to promoting opportunities for young and emerging environmental and sustainable development professionals. Chapters in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and the National Capital Region have delivered over 100 speaker events to over 2000 members and participants. Special initiatives have included professional development workshops, conference opportunities, networking sessions and mentoring. Over the years, YEP has developed a national reputation for planning and promoting quality, issue-focused events that have attracted interest and support from some of Canada's most reputable environmental and sustainable development leaders and professionals.

YEP NCR

Young Environmental Professionals of the National Capital Region (YEP NCR) was launched in January 2001. YEP NCR is the chapter for YEP members in the Ottawa-Gatineau area. The NCR chapter is a registered not-for-profit that holds regular speaker-related events to accommodate a local membership of approximately 220 young environmental and sustainable development professionals.

Increasing participation and collaboration with TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has helped make all of YEP NCR's events a success. Speaker events have included respected leaders of our time such as:

- *Lennart Alvin*, former Swedish Ambassador to Canada
- *Vicki Sharp*, President and CEO, Sustainable Development Technology Canada
- *Elizabeth May*, Leader of the Green Party of Canada; former Executive Director, Sierra Club of Canada
- *David McGuinty*, M.P., Ottawa South; former President and CEO, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
- *Johanne G  linas*, Canada's Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development
- *Karl-Henrik Rob  rt*, Founder, The Natural Step
- *Geoff Green*, President and CEO, Students on Ice
- *Len Good*, CEO and Chairman, Global Environmental Facility
- *Louise Comeau*, Director ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; former Director General, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- *Robert Hornung*, President, Canadian Wind Energy Association
- *Maureen O'Neil*, President, International Development Research Centre

Our chapter has also partnered with organizations such as Industry Canada (to send members to work at the Canada Pavilion at Americana 2004); Carleton University's SIGNALS (to participate in their annual Gala event); the Urban Forum (to attend an event with former Chief Planner, City of Toronto); and, the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development (to participate in workshops on sustainable development strategies).

YEP NCR will continue to build on these successes in an effort to provide members and participants with positive professional development experiences. In order to renew the energy

and enthusiasm in the chapter, a new Board of Directors has recently been established and will work with chapter volunteers to build new ideas and partnerships.

2007 is an opportunity for YEP NCR to build on the activities that benefit our members and participants; complete a transition to a more robust chapter leadership model through incorporation; continue our sound financial position; and, develop creative ideas for 2008 and beyond.

YEP NCR Survey Results

In December 2004 and June 2006, YEP NCR implemented a web-based questionnaire to learn more about the interests of its participants. Some of the 2006 results included:

Profile of Members

- 74% are between the ages 26-35; 63% are women; and, 69% hold graduate degrees
- 67% are professionals who work in the public sector and 17 % are employed in the private sector
- 28% have been involved with YEP NCR for less than one year; 40 % between one-two years; and, 32% for more than two years

YEP NCR Activities

- 91 % have been very or somewhat satisfied with YEP NCR's activities
- 77% indicated that they will be very involved or somewhat involved in YEP NCR's future
- Members remain very interested in a continued focus on speaker events, ranking them as their favourite type of event, with a growing secondary interest in workshops
- Members ranked engagement and accessibility to environmental professionals as YEP NCR's first priority and education and encouraging dialogue came second

Membership and Partnership

The primary focus of YEP is membership experience. YEP facilitates connections between highly motivated, energetic and environmentally conscious people and allows them to share ideas, expand their network of contacts, and provides career development opportunities. YEP engages its members at the chapter level in:

- Networking opportunities;
- Speaker events;
- Conferences and workshops;
- Distribution of employment prospects; and,
- Community projects.

YEP is open to partnerships with private and public organizations that want to engage, educate or employ emerging environmental and sustainable development professionals.

A lifetime membership contribution of \$30 is requested from all those who participate in YEP events. To join YEP NCR, or to start a chapter in your community, please contact us at yep.ncr@gmail.com or visit www.yepcanada.ca.