

RCEN Toxics Caucus

Mandate and Member Information

Toxics Caucus Mandate:

The Toxics Caucus has a mandate to link local and global activities, public and private sectors, and nonprofit actors in their work. In accordance with the Caucus's mandate and Memorandum of Understanding with the New Brunswick Lung Association and Health Canada, the goal is to support Canadian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and disproportionately impacted populations to engage in the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) and environmental health initiatives.

The Caucus is an apolitical advocate based on a democratic majority among members, for actions that improve environmental and human health. The Caucus represents its members, as a union of interested parties, much as trade associations act in relation to the private sector.

What We Do:

The Toxics Caucus brings together RCEN Members to build partnerships between those seeking action on chemicals management and the need to halt the pollution of Canada's ecosystems and the associated risks to human health. Caucuses provide a mechanism for member groups to communicate with each other on specific issues; to prepare joint briefs, submissions and strategies; to establish consultative relationships with other bodies; and to ensure that the voices of smaller groups are heard along with those of the larger national and provincial groups. The Caucus explicitly recognizes the importance of respecting and considering different belief systems and political views.

RCEN will implement their existing caucus structure within both our network and the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment (CNHHE) membership to create a Toxics Caucus.

The Caucus will consist of 1- 2 chairpersons, a steering committee, wider membership, and potential working groups. The steering committee will serve to focus the efforts of the membership to identify key subject matter areas on which to focus advice of the collective. The Caucus will identify key policies and guidance, gaps in the policy and guidance, and implementation issues related to these key matters. As necessary, it will form working groups to analyze and discuss each subject-matter area and develop consensus observations and recommendations for reform.

The Role of Steering Committee and Caucus Chair(s):

As per RCEN's National Caucus Policy, the caucus activities are overseen by Steering Committees composed of no more than 15 RCEN group members in any one caucus. Steering Committees' representative base should include a minimum of four members of different regions in Canada. Steering Committee members serve a two year work term that can be renewed indefinitely, if they are re-elected. Steering committees are responsible to:

- Elect a Chair or two Co-Chairs
- Oversee the development and implementation of caucus projects and programs
- Select delegates for consultations
- Identify, if not pursue, funding opportunities in conjunction with the caucus chair and coordinator

Steering Committees typically meet at least once a month, at a date and time that suits the majority of its members. If a steering committee member misses half or more than half of the meetings in one year without reasonable cause (i.e. personal emergency) and/or advance notice, the Caucus Coordinator(s) will inquire to the member in question the reason(s) for his/her continual absence and confirm his/her interest in remaining a Steering Committee member. Caucus Coordinators can likewise discuss the member's continued participation with the Steering Committee in a virtual meeting.

Caucus Steering Committee Chairs will:

- Develop agendas, convene and chair caucus meetings and conference calls
- Represent the caucus in discussions with other caucus chairs, the National Office, and other stakeholders
- Work with and provide guidance to their national caucus coordinator
- Give input to the hiring of any RCEN caucus staff under a negotiated contract related to the work of that caucus

Chemicals Management Coordinator:

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