



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Perspectives on Bill C-28 and the proposed changes to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)*

The Canadian Environmental Law Association and Nature Canada invite you to a webinar for civil society.

Date: Thursday July 8, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time); 2:00 p.m. (Atlantic Time); 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time)
(length 1 hr 15 mins)

Learn more about the webinar: <https://cela.ca/the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-perspectives-on-bill-c-28-and-cepa/>

Registration Required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvCu2spzMpG9d6CuInrIEKoRDy0G30Gko4>

The federal government released Bill C-28 (the Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act) on April 13, 2021 proposing amendments to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA). Bill C-28 represents the first time changes to CEPA will be considered in over 20 years. As Canada continues to see increasing impacts to the environment and to the health of Canadians from toxic substances and genetically engineered organisms, the introduction of Bill C-28 represents a unique opportunity to assess the changes needed to CEPA to address current and future challenges related to toxic substances, genetically engineered organisms and access to public engagement in legislations.

Background

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) recently conducted a webinar series on CEPA, our country's main environmental legislation used to evaluate and manage substances. In this webinar series, we explored how CEPA can be strengthened to protect vulnerable communities, including children, women of childbearing age, workers, people of low income, and Indigenous communities from toxic exposures, using improved, modern approaches to advance prevention strategies

from hazardous substances. CELA and Nature Canada partnered on the final webinar of the series: *Are Canada's Environmental Laws up to the Challenge? Protecting Communities, their Rights and the Environment from the Threats of Biotechnology.*

Recording for the CEPA webinar series: https://cela.ca/changes_to_cepaa/

Please join us for the webinar on Thursday July 8, 2021 to learn about the key changes proposed in Bill C-28 and what further changes to CEPA are required to protect the environment and the health of Canadians. The speakers' panel for this webinar includes:

Lisa Gue, David Suzuki Foundation – Lisa Gue will provide a perspective on the environmental rights provisions in Bill C-28 and next steps in the legislative process, as well as related measures in Bill C-230, the National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act.

Anne Rochon Ford, Nail Salon Workers Project: An initiative of the Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre- Anne Rochon Ford will provide comments on proposals related to vulnerable populations and how these proposals may address the challenges facing vulnerable groups, particularly workers, from toxic substances.

Joseph Castrilli, Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) - Joseph Castrilli will provide perspectives on a range of issues covered in Bill C-28 including proposals to Schedule 1-List of Toxics Substances of CEPA (Virtual Elimination and high concerned substances), right to a healthy environment and vulnerable populations, and citizens' rights and public participation.

Hugh Benevides, advisor to Nature Canada – Bill C-28 proposes only minor changes to Part 6 of CEPA (dealing with products of biotechnology). The public needs to be informed of proposals to introduce new genetically-engineered animals in Canada and participate in their assessment, in order to protect their wild counterparts. CEPA reform also needs to be better aligned with Indigenous rights and impose a burden on proponents to demonstrate both that new living organisms are needed, and not toxic.

Who should join the webinar: NGOs, academia, civil society

Webinar date: Thursday June 8, 2021 (length 1 hr 15 mins)

Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time
2:00 p.m. Atlantic Time
12:00 p.m. Central Time
11:00 a.m. Mountain Time
10:00 a.m. Pacific Time

