



## Update on the Ad Hoc PRTR Group

September 2002

### What is the Ad Hoc Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Group?

The Ad Hoc PRTR Group is a small informal network of volunteers from academia, industry and non-governmental groups who share an interest in promoting the understanding and use of PRTR data. Started in 2001, the group has developed a brochure on PRTRs entitled *PRTRs: An Innovative Tool for Efficient Industry*. The brochure presents quotations from industrial leaders, community groups and governments in the three countries describing their experiences with PRTRs. Copies in English, French and Spanish are available for distribution from the CEC and also from the CEC web site at:

[http://www.cec.org/files/pdf/POLLUTANTS/PRTR\\_English\\_EN.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/pdf/POLLUTANTS/PRTR_English_EN.pdf).

Following discussions at the annual meeting of the CEC's Consultative Group for the PRTR Project, held in Montreal in December 2001, a second project of the Ad Hoc PRTR Group is now underway. The goal of this project is to foster understanding of the cost savings and environmental and health benefits associated with PRTRs.

### Description of current project

The aim is to develop and distribute a booklet which:

- briefly documents the reductions in chemical releases and transfers experienced in the United States Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and the Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) as a whole, by sector and by chemical, and discusses that these types of reductions may also be experienced in Mexico as the mandatory *Registro de Emisiones y Transferencias de Contaminantes* (RETC) is implemented;
- presents a benchmarking study that estimates potential reductions for a selected sector and calculates the potential savings based on chemicals used as raw material;
- presents selected case studies on: 1) cost savings from reduced chemical use, reduced disposal costs, and improved productivity and competitiveness; 2) environmental benefits of reduced chemical releases and transfers; and 3) reduced health risks to workers and/or the community;
- briefly discusses research findings that demonstrate that states with a clean environment also have a good economy, and that reduced pollutant releases and transfers, as tracked by PRTR data, correlate with reduced health care expenditures as well as improved social and economic performance of both companies and the state.

### For more information

The Ad Hoc PRTR Group welcomes comments on their projects or ideas for future projects. Please contact the coordinator, Sarah Rang, at 1-416-972-7400 or by email at [srang@enveei.com](mailto:srang@enveei.com), or Erica Phipps, PRTR Program Manager, Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America, at 1-514-350-4323 or [ephipps@ccemtl.org](mailto:ephipps@ccemtl.org). Information on the CEC's North American PRTR Project can be found at <http://www.cec.org>.

**Current and Former Members of the Ad Hoc PRTR Group:**

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Rick Findlay	Pollution Probe, Ottawa, Ontario
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F = former member