

Canadian Association for Renewable Energies

The Canadian Association for Renewable Energies is a membership-based national association incorporated in 1998 to promote feasible applications of renewable energy in Canada. We would like to make five suggestions for your review of the proposed CEC Operational Plan 2004-2006.

1. We commend your inclusion of renewable energies and your proposal to increase awareness of the environmental benefits of renewables, but suggest that the definition of 'renewable energy' be harmonized among the three nations. Canada has yet to release its guidelines on low-impact renewables and there is significant disconnect between our country and the U.S. over the eligibility of certain technologies, which may lead to future problems in cooperation.
2. We encourage greater consideration of GreenHeat applications (space conditioning and water heating by renewable energy technologies), which currently are over-shadowed by heavy emphasis on green power. Our belief is that GreenHeat has significant potential to reduce GHG emissions, but is under-emphasized in policy and awareness priorities.
3. We concur with your efforts to identify barriers which include gathering information on the market and environmental labelling and certification.
4. We encourage an acceleration in your timetable to promote the uptake of renewables (green power, green fuels AND green heat) faster than 2006. Canada has predicted that output from non-hydro renewables will drop two-thirds by 2010, and we suggest that promotion of renewables is a significant lead priority for the three nations.
5. We support your proposal to provide advice to Council in 2004 on the issue of renewables development in North America, subject to our earlier request that the term be harmonized. We trust that your advice will include concrete recommendations on how to increase the share of renewables in the total energy supply portfolios of all three nations. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on your proposed plan, and offer our assistance in any aspect relating to renewable energies.

Carlos Yruretagoyena

Subject: RE: Carta del CCPC a los Ministros de la CCA sobre el Fondo de América del Norte para la Cooperación Ambiental

Estimada Jocelyne:

Te escribo con la finalidad de poder aportar evidencias relacionadas a una acción similar de coartar, eliminar, condicionar y desbaratar lo referente a la participación pública y los apoyos financieros que le da sustento a las iniciativas desde la comunidad.....tuve el honor de ser consejero público por la COCEF en la parte mexicana, desafortunadamente por razones jamás explicadas a nosotros el consejo de la parte norteamericana fue disuelto, nosotros (México) por el convenio establecido fuimos además disueltos, esto le dio al banco de COCEF y al staff técnico rienda suelta para ejecutar proyectos a lo largo de la frontera ...en el caso de Baja California (que es el estado en donde yo represente al consejo asesor) y a partir de la desaparición de la participación consejal nuestra se han dado varios casos en donde el proyecto reúne las consideraciones técnicas suficientes pero entra en conflictos con los intereses de las comunidades que pretenden beneficiar....el caso de las plantas tratadoras de aguas residuales urbanas en Mexicali y el relleno sanitario de Tecate son dos casos recientes, te sugiero que averigues esto con respecto a como la COCEF ha dejado de ser un instrumento comunitario y se ha convertido en un brazo ejecutor del NATBANK, pasando por alto lo que los ciudadanos queremos y estamos dispuestos a comprometernos quedo a tus ordenes.

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Janice Harvey

Vice-President

Marine Conservation Director

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Good Morning --

I have become aware that there is discussion of ending the NAFEC. I wish to register the Conservation Council of New Brunswick's concern about this possibility. The engagement of community and non-profit groups in environment and health issues on the ground greatly advances public understanding and political accountability. It also adds value to the work of governments as they struggle to deal with complex issues that affect people and environments directly. To lose access to a source of funding for the public to engage in environmental issues would undermine much of the good work CEC has been able to do. I sincerely hope that the decision will be made based on the value of public engagement rather than on the inconvenience or cost of that engagement.

Clean Annapolis River Project

Stephen Hawboldt

Executive Director

Clean Annapolis River Project

Nova Scotia, Canada

Dear CEC:

I would entirely concur with the letter from the Chair of JPAC to the three ministers of the environment. The Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) received funding in 1996 to establish a specialized water quality monitoring program known as Operation SWIM (Sub-Watershed Investigative Monitoring). The seed funding from NAFEC started the program and the program continues today, 7 years later.

Over that period of time, the small NAFEC investment has been multiplied many times. An excellent economic and environmental rate of return.

Cuerpos de Conservación

Ruben Presuel Polanco

Director Ejecutivo de Cuerpos de Conservación
Mexicanos, A.C.,
rubenpresuel@yahoo.com

Estimados Srs., del CCA:

Es asombroso lo que pueden hacer la sociedad y las comunidades organizadas, con la ayuda de un pequeño fondo de impulso, el que rompe la inercia, el aporte de la sociedad y las personas comprometidas es fabuloso, el Fondo FANCA tiene esta virtud de potenciar esfuerzos de la sociedad civil organizada que en forma importante logran cambios en favor del ambiente y la calidad de vida en las comunidades.

Visto desde aquí, en la Península de Yucatán, Cuerpos de Conservación Mexicanazo, A.C. cuyo trabajo esta especialmente dirigido a los jóvenes y el trabajo en comunidades para mejorar las condiciones de vida y conservar el medio ambiente, al día de hoy realmente sentimos que un fondo que ha sido evaluado y probado su eficiencia debe continuar y recibir mayores apoyos para ampliar su cobertura, es realmente preocupante que una iniciativa de desaparecer dicho fondo extinga una excelente posibilidad de alcanzar resultados eficientes en favor del medio ambiente y la sociedad civil, donde hoy las circunstancias nos muestran que si cerramos las puertas a la sociedad civil esto seria muy lamentable y un retroceso que esperamos no suceda y tengan la cordura de ser suficientemente creativos y decididos a mantener activo el fondo FANCA.

Agradesco puedan difundir ampliamente esta opinion ante las personas indicadas, especialmente el Comité Consultivo Publico conjunto de la CCA.

Enlace Ecológico A.C.

Honorable David Anderson
Ministro de Medio Ambiente de Canadá

Ingeniero Alberto Cárdenas Jiménez
Titular, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de México

Administradora Marianne L. Horinko
Administradora interina, Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Estados Unidos

Asunto: Fondo de América del Norte para la Cooperación Ambiental (FANCA)

Estimados miembros del Consejo,

Les escribimos para expresar nuestra profunda preocupación y total descontento respecto a la sugerencia del Secretariado de la CCA de dismantelar el Fondo de América del Norte para la Cooperación Ambiental (FANCA).

El FANCA es hoy en día sin duda la fuente más importantes de recursos disponibles para proyectos comunitarios que contribuyen a la conservación, la protección y el mejoramiento del medio ambiente de América del Norte, tal y como lo establece la misión de la CCA.

Desde 1996, el FANCA ha contribuido a desarrollar alianzas cooperativas entre organizaciones de diferentes sectores en toda América del Norte. Ha ayudado a desarrollar y fortalecer la capacidad de organizaciones e instituciones locales al tiempo que vincula asuntos ambientales, sociales y económicos. La experiencia ha demostrado que las estrategias de protección y conservación ambiental duraderas sólo pueden mantenerse mejorando la capacidad de las personas y las organizaciones que participan directamente en el problema que se pretende resolver. Sin recursos, no es posible lograr lo anterior.

Para proteger nuestro medio ambiente, exigimos desechar la sugerencia del Secretariado sobre el dismantelamiento del FANCA y que se garantice la continuidad y mantenimiento de este organismo.

Atentamente,

Gildardo Acosta Ruiz
Secretario Técnico

Jon Plaut

Summit, New Jersey
(former Chair of JPAC)

To the Ministers:

Never have I felt stronger since the inception of the CEC that it would be a great mistake, breaking trust with the public and abandoning one of the CEC's best and most salutary programs, to de-fund NAFEC.

When NAFEC was created, Dr. John Wirth, a JPAC member, suggested to JPAC and the ministers that NAFEC would create a link to and a bond with the public that is to build and maintain the North American constituency of the CEC. Besides all the other reasons for maintaining NAFEC, even at a reduced level, enumerated by JPAC in their recent Advice to Council, this great advantage of NAFEC, which John Wirth predicted, should be carefully taken into account, if the CEC is not to become just another international agreement between governments.

I would be happy to discuss this history and advantage to the CEC with regard to NAFEC with the ministers or their alternates, or JPAC in an open forum with the public, before any action is taken which could have grave long-term consequences for the CEC's relationship with the public.

Liette Vasseur

Member 1999-2002

(former Chair 2001)

Liette Vasseur

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Regarding NAFEC, I am very disappointed to learn that the Ministers have decided to discontinue these funds. I strongly support the comments of my former colleagues of the JPAC that this is a great mistake. Over the years, I have been able to discover the great results and new ideas that have come from several of the NAFEC projects. They have helped communities and community groups integrate environmental issues at a broader level that would not have been possible under regular funding agencies. These projects have led to improve collaborative efforts between communities of different countries and enhance environmental cooperation in North America in a way that the "business as usual" have not been able to do. Asking people in communities of North America about the NACEC, most are not very well aware of the actions and efforts but they know about NAFEC. The elimination of these funds will have negative consequences to the NACEC as the support of communities will decline.

Considering the various activities of the NACEC, I feel that there are several other places that can be rationalised without endangering the functioning of the organisation. NAFEC is a small part of the global budget and its elimination shows that there is certainly a greater problem within the organisation. Usually an organisation that works well does not eliminate the programs that have brought positive perception and successful results.

I therefore add my voice to the others in my disappointment and the need to keep the NAFEC.

Organización Mundial Ambientalista Educativa A.C.

Mtra. Oralias Sylvia Rocha Herrera

Presidenta de la Organización Mundial Ambientalista Educativa A.C. (O.M.A.E.)

Estimada Manon Pepin

Reciban un cordial saludo y los comentarios de nuestra O.N.G., LA ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL AMBIENTALISTA EDUCATIVA A.C., O.M.A.E., como miembro de la CCA sobre el fondo de América del Norte para la Cooperación Ambiental (FANCA):

1. Es muy importante poder seguir contando con este fondo del FANCA, para avanzar en el cuidado al ambiente en América.
2. Darle la oportunidad a más grupos ambientalistas de la participación ciudadana como O.N.G.s., que se encuentran apoyando esta Comisión para la Cooperación Ambiental pidiéndoles sus proyectos sobre el cuidado y protección del manejo de los recursos hídricos.
3. O.M.A.E. tiene 13 años de dar educación ambiental filantrópicamente y voluntariamente sobre el cuidado del agua, aire, tierra, fauna animal y vegetal entre otros en varias escuelas, realizando actividades con los papas, maestros, alumnos, grupos de la tercera edad y asociaciones civiles de colonos, sobre la protección y manejo adecuado del agua, pero en forma limitada por falta de recursos para ampliarla, y aun así entrelazó actividades científicas sobre el cuidado de la biodiversidad gracias al agua y protegiendo la misma.
4. Se nos podría invitar a hacerles una presentación a los miembros del CCPC, sobre estas acciones de quienes estamos realizando estos proyectos desde tiempo atrás, para poder contar con un apoyo económico a través del FANCA y potenciar estas actividades y acciones en beneficio de la población en general.
5. Aparte del material y recursos que se utiliza en el CCA para hacernos llegar la información de las diferentes reuniones.

Sin otro en particular quedamos de ustedes reiterándoles nuestra sincera amistad, y en espera de su respuesta ante nuestros comentarios.

Periodismo para Elevar la Conciencia Ecológica

Honorable David Anderson
Ministro de Medio Ambiente de Canadá

Ingeniero Alberto Cárdenas Jiménez
Titular, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de México

Administradora Marianne L. Horinko
Administradora interina, Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Estados Unidos

Asunto: Fondo de América del Norte para la Cooperación Ambiental (FANCA)

Estimados miembros del Consejo,

Les escribimos para expresar nuestra profunda preocupación y total descontento respecto a la sugerencia del Secretariado de la CCA de desmantelar el Fondo de América del Norte para la Cooperación Ambiental (FANCA).

El FANCA es hoy en día sin duda la fuente más importantes de recursos disponibles para proyectos comunitarios que contribuyen a la conservación, la protección y el mejoramiento del medio ambiente de América del Norte, tal y como lo establece la misión de la CCA.

Desde 1996, el FANCA ha contribuido a desarrollar alianzas cooperativas entre organizaciones de diferentes sectores en toda América del Norte. Ha ayudado a desarrollar y fortalecer la capacidad de organizaciones e instituciones locales al tiempo que vincula asuntos ambientales, sociales y económicos. La experiencia ha demostrado que las estrategias de protección y conservación ambiental duraderas sólo pueden mantenerse mejorando la capacidad de las personas y las organizaciones que participan directamente en el problema que se pretende resolver.

Sin recursos, no es posible lograr lo anterior.

Para proteger nuestro medio ambiente, exigimos desechar la sugerencia del Secretariado sobre el desmantelamiento del FANCA y que se garantice la continuidad y mantenimiento de este organismo.

Atentamente,

Miguel Ángel Torres
Codirector
Periodismo para Elevar la Conciencia Ecológica

Peter Berle

Please relay to Chairman Gustavo Alanis-Ortega, and members and former members of JPAC my strong support for the recent advice to Council relating to the maintenance of the NAFEC.

As a member of JPAC, I was involved in the establishment of the Fund and participated in every grant-making meeting from the beginning, through 2001. The integration of the grants with CEC programs provides local support and a reality test for CEC program objectives. Also NAFEC grantees give CEC an understanding of what is happening at the community level, that can make for more effective programs.

While I am not familiar with the full CEC budget proposal, cutting some of the extensive travel costs to provide funds for NAFEC seems reasonable.

Rubén Martínez Miranda

Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro
V ESOCITE

<http://www.uaemex.mx/Evento/esocite2004/>
<http://www.esocite.8m.net>

Estimada Pepin:

Por este medio expreso mi rechazo al desmantelamiento del FANCA. En pocas oportunidades se pueden observar prácticas democráticas como las que se desarrollan al interior y exterior de esta organización.

Desmantelarlas dejaría sin voces de expresión a los grupos más vulnerables de la sociedad, y, sobretodo a los que más necesitan representación: los bosques, las mariposas, el agua, la fauna marina, etc. éstos, que no se pueden expresar, FANCA los representa públicamente.

Espero que mis comentarios apoyen en algo, sinceramente.

Sierra Club of BC

Jeffrey Paleczny

Development Officer
Sierra Club of BC
Apt 302 733 Johnson Street,
Victoria, BC V8W 3C7
Website: www.sierraclub.ca/bc

To: Gustavo Alanís-Ortega
JPAC Chair for 2003

RE: Maintaining support for the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation

I was disturbed to learn about the current situation facing North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC) in which the CEC Secretariat's suggested to conclude the NAFEC.

I am responding to this notification to lend support and encouragement for continuing this very important and critical Fund. We here at the Sierra Club Canada, BC Chapter have greatly benefited in the past from the support received from NAFEC. I also know that other entities of the Sierra Club as well as numerous other environmental organizations have also benefited from this support.

Many environmental organization are facing a very difficult period in that they are faced with declining funding and resources from foundations, corporations and government programs. This is occurring at a time when there continues to be mounting environmental concerns on many fronts in North America. This program has proven that it has been greatly successful and has had a positive wide scale impact and includes:

- Succeeded to address the cooperation part of the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC)
- Succeeded to promote the capacity building of community groups;
- Provided the CEC with a North American public constituency;
- Reported a wide variety of positive effects and impacts in a short time;
- Facilitated information exchange among North American community-based organizations;
- Promoted public participation within the CEC by encouraging grantees to take an active role in CEC activities; and
- Benefited from positive local media coverage.

I strongly urge the Secretariat to explore other options for meeting our budgetary challenges, for example, addressing the large number of meetings, the travel expenses of government officials covered through the CEC budget and the large number of printed reports. With today's

technology much of this can be done using virtual and electronic based mediums such as internet, teleconferencing and email. It is more important to put the support where it is critically needed and where it has shown proven results such as the above mentioned track record. By empowering these groups, many who have a major volunteer component, you are able to reach a broad constituency and people "on the ground" working towards sustainable and environmentally conscious development.

Please allow NAFEC to remain a part of the CEC's program and to continue its function of supporting community groups.

Southeast Environmental Association

David Boyce

Executive Director

Southeast Environmental Association

www.seapei.ca

I am writing to you over concern that the CEC may be moving to abandon the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation. I would hope that this is not the case. I program such as yours that encourages cooperation among the three jurisdictions is truly unique and very valuable. I for one would hope that the fund is not only maintained but would see an increase in the budgetary level of awards. Please do not take a step backwards but continue forward with this initiative.