

### How you can help

We are always open to feedback from you or other groups interested in this initiative.

### Please forward all inquiries or feedback to:

Merebeth Switzer  
Acting Project Manager,  
OESDWG  
email: [m\\_switzer@ducks.ca](mailto:m_switzer@ducks.ca)  
fax: (705) 721-4999  
(include: ATTN M. Switzer  
fax cover page)

## PROGRESS TO DATE



*Ontario's Environmental Commissioner, Gord Miller, addresses the ESD Networking Forum (September 21, 2006, Downsview)*

### ESD Networking Forum

*Downsview Park, Toronto  
September 21, 2006*

On September 21 over 180 individuals attended the ESD Networking Forum at Downsview Park, Toronto. Sponsored by the Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (OESDWG) and Toronto Regional Centre for Expertise on ESD (Toronto-RCE), this Forum was an opportunity to begin to explore opportunities for working together to enhance education for sustainability.

The Networking Forum's Program includes background information from a number of groups involved in the day, including 37 groups

who displayed information about their organization and their ESD activities. The Program and speakers' presentations are available in downloadable .pdfs from <http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php>

### OESDWG Core Working Group

Representatives from more than 50 groups from a broad cross-section of those interested in sustainability education, have accepted the invitation to assist in developing the Ontario ESD Working Group.

Their first meeting was held

on September 22nd at the Centre for Social [Innovation](#) at 215 Spadina, Toronto. This was followed by a second meeting on November 2nd, hosted by the Toronto Zoo.

These first introductory meetings allowed participants to meet each other and to begin to explore aspects of the OESDWG including its eventual structure, additional membership, governance, communications, networking, potential first actions and so on.

The next meeting of the OESDWG Core Working Group will take place in mid-January.



*The ESD Networking Forum provided some background about the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and it was a chance to open the door to work together to build on our strengths.*



### Background Information

about this initiative can be found in the *March, 2006 Update* which can be requested via email from:

[esd\\_ontario@lsf-lst.ca](mailto:esd_ontario@lsf-lst.ca)

or on the web at:

[www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php](http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php)

**YOUR SUPPORT . . .** This success of this initiative will come from the commitment and work of many individuals and organizations who are already making excellent strides in educating in the diverse areas that fall under the umbrella of Education for Sustainable Development.

We welcome your feedback, all forms of support and look forward to hearing from you.



### Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Annual Report

The ECO's 2005-2006 Annual Report, *Neglecting Our Obligations*, identified many environmental short-comings within government ministries including some serious concerns relating to education. However, the ECO did recognize the potential role for the Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group and acknowledged the support that was being provided by the Ontario Ministries of Education and Environment (note, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is involved in supporting the subcommittee working on biodiversity education.)

[Click here to view the report](#)

## SCIENCE CURRICULUM REVIEW

The Ontario Ministry of Education is a partner in the Ontario ESD Working Group and has invited the OESDWG to provide feedback on the draft of the new Science curriculum by **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. We are one of a limited number of groups, outside of those directly involved in classroom education, that have been given this opportunity. We are particularly excited about the chance to provide feedback from the perspective of education for sustainability/sustainable development. Input into curriculum is one of the objectives of the OESDWG and this is a very important opportunity since it may be seven years before the next review.

### Open Invitation to Take Part:

We welcome your participation and you do not need to be a member of the Core OESDWG to take part. Alternatively or in addition to this, you may wish to provide input through other mechanisms where they exist – for example through your school board, ministry, teaching association or other organizations.

If you would like to join us in creating a response for the

OESDWG regarding the new Science Curriculum please reply to [esd\\_ontario@lsf-ist.ca](mailto:esd_ontario@lsf-ist.ca) with the following information:

1. Your name
2. email AND phone
3. Whether you are responding as an individual OR on behalf of an organization (if so, please provide your organization's name.)
4. Whether you will:
  - provide written comments by noon, December 11<sup>th</sup>;
  - provide written comments and will attend December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting;
  - attend the meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> only.
5. Let us know whether you are commenting on ENTIRE curriculum or specific grades or parts (please specify.)

### The Process:

Obtaining this feedback is a massive undertaking. To make it manageable, selected organizations have been asked to act as conduits for this feedback. These groups have already been identified and only surveys that properly recognize their originators will

be considered. Also:

- All groups have the opportunity to complete **one survey (and one survey only)**.
- Feedback is only through the survey and requires responses to specific questions. Survey Work Sheets may be downloaded and you should use these to guide your responses
- There are comment boxes but it has been suggested that these should be succinct
- Some items that are non-negotiable and responders should avoid expending energy in these areas.

If you want to provide feedback you may obtain all the documents from:

Grades 1 – 8 <http://www.curriculum.org/edu/scitech/feedback.html>

Grades 9 -10 <http://www.curriculum.org/edu/science/feedback.html>

A Powerpoint presentation has been created in .pdf summarizing some of the information provided by the Ministry of Education. It may be downloaded from:

[www.lsf-ist.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php](http://www.lsf-ist.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php)

## How you can help . . .

**Help us expand the network.** Share this information with others—post it on your website, on your listserv or office bulletin board. We are still in the early stages but we need to start to get this important information out to everyone interested in moving ahead ESD.

**Provide us ideas and feedback.** We are always open to feedback. Please forward your comments to the email address below. (We will acknowledge your submissions but we are limited in our ability to provide detailed or individual responses.

**Just hearing about this initiative?** If you want to be added to our email distribution list please email us and request to be added to our list.

**Volunteer or In-Kind Support** The groups that came together to start this initiative recognized that it would take all of our support to make it work. If you think you can help, we would love to hear from you.

**French?** We are currently operating only in English but would welcome any help to support to network in French or to expand our reach into other communities.

**Please forward all inquiries or feedback to:**

Merebeth Switzer, Acting Project Manager, OESDWG email: [m\\_switzer@ducks.ca](mailto:m_switzer@ducks.ca) fax: (705) 721-4999 (include: ATTN M. Switzer fax cover page)