

offices, responded informally to the various questions and comments about the Canadian legislative process.

The Great Lakes portion of the visit opened with briefings on particular issues, namely, water quality, toxics and air quality. As these session took place at the Downsview offices of Environment Canada, staffers were also able to tour the air quality monitoring labs and the weather centre. At the offices of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, participants heard about how the Trust has successfully served as a broker for the various interest groups involved in the Toronto waterfront. They were especially impressed by the development of a waterfront trail from Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake and asked numerous questions about how to get stakeholders to come together. The first day concluded with a dinner with guests from industry and non-governmental organizations.

The priorities of the provincial government were highlighted during breakfast on the second day when Ontario Minister of Environment and Energy Norm Stirling met with the group. As chair of the Council of Ministers of Environment who had been meeting in Toronto the day before, he took the opportunity to outline areas of federal and provincial co-operation. Jim Bradley, a former Liberal Minister of Environment, also participated in the meeting and emphasized the need for co-operative action on both sides of the border.

The group then travelled to Burlington where there were briefings and labs tours at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. Special presentations were given on endocrine disruptors and the virtual elimination strategy. This was followed by a joint presentation on the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan by government officials and local citizens. A walk to the wildlife restoration area located beside the Burlington office provided an opportunity to see not only the plant and animal life but also the restored recreational area for wind-surfers. The second day concluded in Niagara-on-the-Lake with a tour of a local winery.

The final day opened with a presentation on Niagara River toxics and the Canadian biomonitoring programs and upstream and downstream monitoring programs. Since one of the monitoring sites was located in an old lighthouse in Niagara-on-the-Lake, our visitors were able to walk to the site and speak to the technician on duty.

During the concluding session in Niagara Falls, participants spoke about their impressions of the visit and what they had learned. They seemed to appreciate the balance of technical presentations and political discussions. Several mentioned the value of having an opportunity to learn about a particular region of Canada and its political system. One participant concluded that he did not have a clear counterpart in Canada and asked with whom should he work on Great Lakes issues. Another spoke about how to include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in resolving these