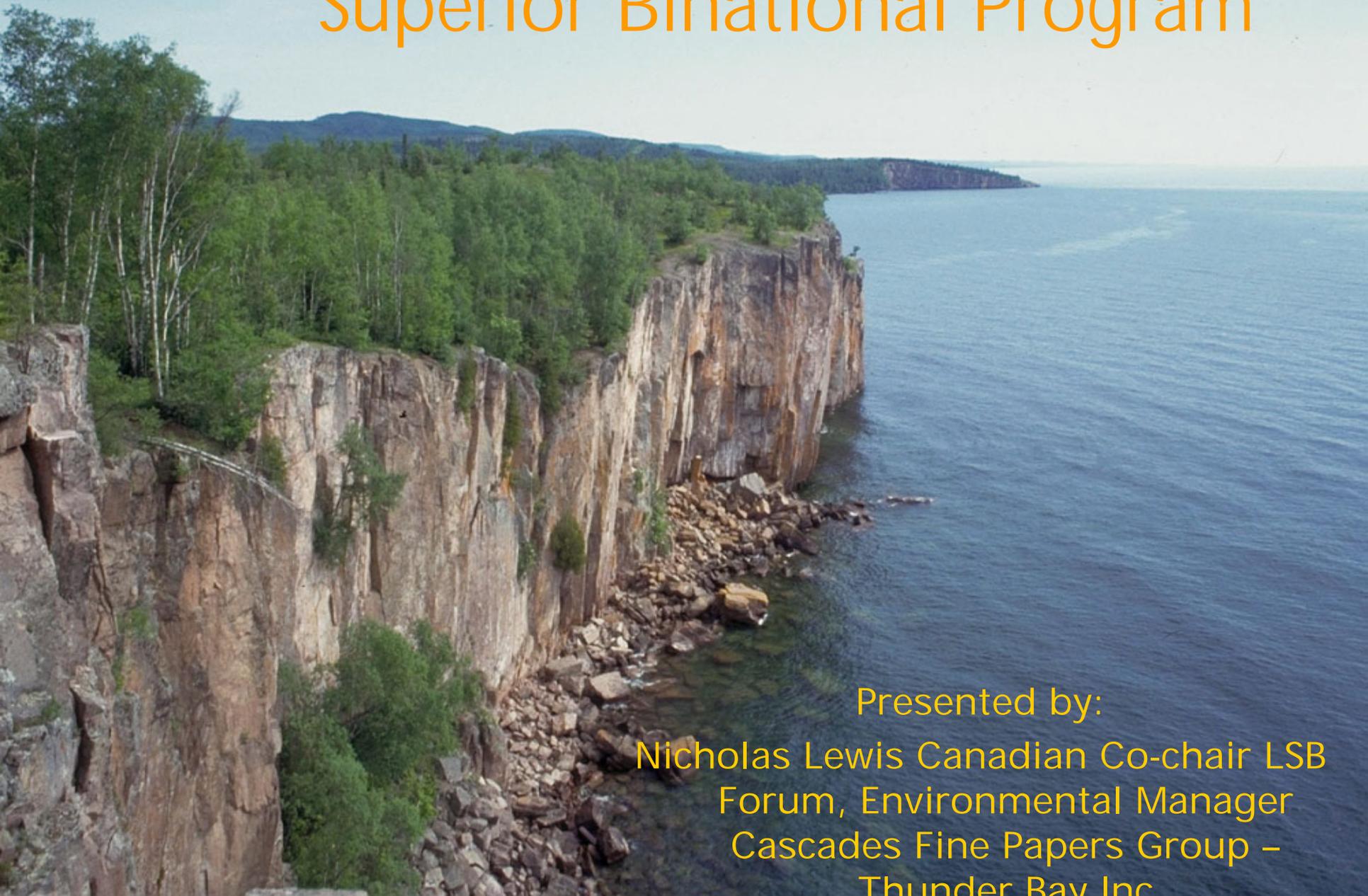




# The Role of Industry in the Lake Superior Binational Program



Presented by:

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Lake Superior Binational



Program

## Topics

- Lake Superior Binational Program
- Industry - ECOS group – Lake Superior
- Cascades Fine Papers Group – Thunder Bay Inc
- Summary Remarks

# Lake Superior Watershed



# Lake Superior Binational



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- program announced in 1991 to protect and maintain the ecosystem
- early focus on Zero Discharge Demonstration Program
- ecosystem approach covers six themes introduced in 1997
- active public participation (Lake Superior Forum)

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## Lake Superior Binational Forum Perspective

- role of the Forum
- diversity of stakeholders from local industries, municipalities, universities and community groups
- Mandate: provide input into reduction of the 9 chemicals of concern: mercury, Dioxins, PCBs, HCB, OCS, toxaphene & others pesticides

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## **Environmental Successes Government & Forum**

- progress on Lake Superior through many programs at the local and regional levels
- cooperative efforts with Binational Toxics Strategy

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## **Environmental Successes (2)**

- mercury 60% load reduction target met for 2000
- EcoSuperior mercury collection and recycling
- Pulp and paper sector converts to chlorine dioxide bleaching

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## **Environmental Successes (3)**

- phase out of PCB use in Canadian mills near completion
- Load reduction targets for zero discharge
- Sediment remediation Thunder Bay harbour through RAP program

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## **Environmental Successes (4)**

- Input into the development of ecosystem principles and objectives of "indicators and targets for Lake Superior"
- Special designations
- Vision statement for Lake Superior

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## **Environmental Successes (5)**

- rehabilitation of native lake trout population in Lake Superior
- recovery of lake whitefish populations

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## **ECOS Group**

- Environmental Coordinators of Superior
- All pulp and paper companies on Canadian side of Lake Superior meeting on a quarterly basis to discuss issues pertaining to the Lake Superior basin

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## **ECOS Group**

- Invitation to both Federal and Provincial governments to join meetings that were being held at various location on the lake
- Mandate: discuss voluntary and cooperative agreements that would reduce the 9 chemicals of concern on Lake Superior

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## **Joint Projects – Industry & Government**

- Voluntary Air Emission testing – Environment Canada (GLBTS) – Octachlorostyrene, Hexachlorobenzene, Dioxins/Furans, Benzo(a)pyrene & PAHs, Mercury, Cadmium, Pentachlorophenol & PCBs
- PCB inventory updated – Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment

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## **Joint Projects – Industry & Government**

- Fluorescent light recycling to to remove mercury
- NPE/APE – effluent testing to verify elimination of NPEs due to purchasing policy
- Burn barrel education by the companies
- Biosolids research project – Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada – technical options for processing biosolids as well as waste characterization

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Inc

- Purchasing Policy
- New Chemical Request Form must be completed for Environmental sign off for purchasing
- Requirements
- MSDS sheet must be provided
- Information must be provided by supplier as to NPRI chemicals and concentration in

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## **Cascades Fine Papers Group – Thunder Bay Inc**

- Information must be provided by supplier regarding DSL list i.e. chemical and concentration
- Information must be provided as to whether the 9 chemicals of concern are present in the product
- All products are required to be tested for mercury at ppb
- Aquatic toxicity information if not on the MSDS must be provided

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## **Cascades Fine Papers Group – Thunder Bay Inc**

- Information must be provided by the supplier as to the presence of NPE/APE – Corporate policy requires all mills to be NPE/APE free
- When all the information has been received then decision is made as to approval

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## **Cascades Fine Papers Group - Thunder Bay Inc**

- The wastewater discharge from our mill is tested for the 9 compounds of concern
- Our company is recycling the used Fluorescent lights

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## Summary

- The industry & government approach on working together on the Lake Superior Binational ,GLBTS, and Lamp programs seems to be successful
- The process is long term
- Consistent representation is very important from both industry and government

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## Summary

- The process is based on consensus from all companies
- Signed agreements are difficult for the group
- Begin the process with easy to do projects to help build trust and momentum

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## Summary

- ECOS group has been formed but is not a legal entity
- Companies feel this approach is best
- ECOS & government need to find innovative ways of working on these projects

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## Summary

- ECOS & government to continue hold meetings with the intention of developing additional projects that help the goals of the Lake Superior Binational Program, Lamp program and the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
- Long term goal is to develop other projects with governments and at some time in the future invite U.S. companies to the group

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## **Appreciations**

- Darrell Piekarz of Environment Canada and Paul Jordan of the Ministry of Environment for their work with ECOS
- John Marsden of Environment Canada and Liz Lapante of the EPA for use of parts of this presentation