



Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC)

National Advisory Panel

Thursday, May 20, 2021, 1:00-4:30 pm ET; via zoom

Attendance

National Advisory Panel

Alex von Knobloch
Beverly Osazuwa
Christopher Hilken
Jane Lister
Nadine Blaney
Nadine Gudz
Richard Janda
Ron Ormson
Pat McLean
Jacob Westfall

CIAC Staff

Danielle Morrison
Don Fusco
Gilles Laurin
Isabelle Des Chênes
Shannon Watt
Shawna Bruce (Facilitator)
Vince Gagner (External – BASES)

WELCOME REMARKS

Shawna welcomed all participating members of the National Advisory Panel (NAP). Newly attending CIAC staff/external participants were also introduced. First, Vince Gagner introduced himself as the general manager at the Bluewater Association for Safety, Environment, and Sustainability (BASES), explaining that he is representing his members at this meeting. Don Fusco also provided a self-introduction as CIAC's Director of Government and Stakeholder Relations in Ontario. He has worked for CIAC for five years, engaging with government, members, and other stakeholders. Sarnia-Lambton is the core cluster in Ontario, so Don works closely with Vince and his teams.

Welcome from CIAC

Isabelle provided a personal welcome from CIAC, expressing that the NAP has done their due diligence on the Sarnia issue; providing notice of their Challenge Letter and delivering it in January 2018. This meeting serves to provide an update on progress towards addressing their Challenge Letter, which included three key recommendations:

- release information to the public, including the First Nations community, on leaks and spills when they occur;
- enhance the BCAP process to get more effective input on company practices and policies, to document that input in BCAP minutes, track decisions and follow up where necessary; and
- renew efforts to involve the First Nation community in BCAP.

It was important to include a report on progress of CIAC members but also to highlight the work of the broader Sarnia industrial community. As such, Vince is in attendance to provide his perspective. His work

with the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA), Sarnia Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER), and the Sarnia Industrial Education Cooperative (IEC) to step up BASES (with both Responsible Care® (RC) and non-RC members), has delivered progress on community-based notification system and information sharing capacity that is comprehensive and a critical piece that supports CIAC member work in the Sarnia-Lambton area.

Isabelle explained that she is presenting this work at the request of the CIAC Board of Directors. This presentation will also be shared with Board members at their meeting on May 27. Isabelle shared that she would welcome the participation of any NAP members to support her at the Board meeting, should they be interested.

Open Meeting

Shawna motioned to accept the May 2021 NAP agenda; Pat moved; Jane seconded.

Shawna motioned to accept the February 2021 NAP Minutes; Ron moved; Nadine B. seconded.

SLEA/CAER STATUS REPORT

Vince introduced himself, describing his background and career path, which involved a variety of risk assessment projects working with many different stakeholders. He also described his initial reactions to the 2018 Challenge Letter and understood how the panel responded in line with the “outrage” element that was fostered by the Global News “Toxic Secret” story. At the time, Vince reached out to Kris Lee and Debbie Krukowski (and others) to listen to their specific concerns. Vince also followed up with Bob Masterson and had a good exchange on CAER and the RC Accountability code.

Vince also highlighted the recent announcement that the Board of Directors for CAER, the Industrial Educational Cooperative (IEC) and SLEA have launched the Bluewater Association for Safety, Environment, and Sustainability (BASES). See below for more information on BASES.

BASES’ 2021 engagement strategy involves the following projects:

1. BASES brand launch: BASES represents a commitment to regional excellence made across Sarnia-Lambton by member companies working collaboratively with communities, all levels of government, First Nations, local contractors, building and construction trades, and Lambton College. CAER, IEC, and SLEA include open sharing of knowledge, drive for improvement, and achieving goals through collaboration. The new brand gives a holistic perspective on health, safety, and environment, and aligns with the principles of RC and the ideals of sustainability.
2. Regional JHSC forum held in March to bring together industry with local public health and receive feedback from workers representing 5000 Building Trades across the region.
3. Website build and launch: All information pertaining to CAER, IEC and SLEA now lives on www.lambtonbases.ca as a central ‘hub’ for the interactive exchange of information in Sarnia-Lambton related to the protection of workers, the community, and the environment. The design and build of the new website included significant consultations with many members of the community.
4. Everbridge – Phase 2: MyCNN services is integrating with BASES to allow the public to receive notifications directly from sites. Over the coming months, each site will begin to post notices to MyCNN for public access.
5. Emergency Preparedness week: key highlights include promoting BASES via Threads of Life Sponsorship, BASES Advertorial, GM Letter to Board/Committees, Radio announcements, Intro

Presentations (Rotary, Lambton County Council), Regional Management System Audit, Weekly Safety Meeting Content, and Infographics.

6. In the future we will look to introduce BASES into elementary, high school, and Lambton College curriculum (under development).
7. We are assessing ways to conduct annual surveys of our members, government representatives, First Nations, system subscribers, workers and their families, etc. as part of a documented continuous improvement cycle (under development).

Some examples of how BASES connects directly with community stakeholders and rightsholders includes:

1. The SLEA communications committee that brings perspectives from each site and their connection with their neighbours to a regional forum for sharing.
2. Newsletter that connects BASES to over 1000 subscribers.
3. Co-Chair of stakeholder and rightsholder Clean Air Sarnia and Area (CASA) meetings and airshed initiatives that includes standing membership from local community members, environmental groups, government and First Nations.
4. Co-Chair of stakeholder and rightsholder Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project (SAEHP) Advisory Committee meetings and provide direct feedback to study leaders on behalf of local community members, public health specialists, environmental experts, and government representatives from all levels including First Nations.
5. Support of the Bluewater Community Advisory Panel (BCAP) as requested by our members.
6. Membership in Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR): The St. Clair River is an excellent example of regional collaboration to assess and control impact with direct engagement with all levels of Government, Community and First Nations. Remedial activities completed since the late 1980s have significantly improved the ecological health of the St. Clair River. Recent public presentations by Environment and Climate Change Canada, SCRCA, SLEA, Downriver Water Users including Walpole and WATCH to reassess drinking water BUI (beneficial use impairment) indicate that the risk of spills to the river requiring downriver response is now extremely well controlled and notification and response systems are now only practiced through simulations.

BASES strives for continuous improvement by listening to their community through their Boards, Committees, and Project Teams to drive changes, learning from annual events, and leveraging technology that allow them to connect in more modern ways. Their approach is to allocate their efforts and energy based on science, facts, and direct feedback from people that live and work in our region and not respond to perceptions and sensationalized messages in journalist reports. Looking forward, they believe that BASES will help share these facts and feedback in a better way and ensure that Sarnia-Lambton continues to be recognized as the benchmark for regional collaboration for other parts of Canada and the world to follow.

Question: Can you outline what happens when there is an incident in terms of notification?

Answer: Vince answered that in the event of an emergency, a notification will be sent from the site to Sarnia dispatch as in the past, but it is now going through Everbridge, not faxes. This notification triggers actions as required that could include, as appropriate, establishing unified command and/or mutual aid. Now, in parallel with this, sites can also connect directly to the community with updates – not to direct emergency actions but to provide updates on the event. All instruction to the community regarding emergency actions

goes through the municipal/AFN Emergency Operations. Public notifications go through the MyCNN application.

Question: What is the relationship between BASES and BCAP?

Answer: Vince indicated that he attends BCAP meetings as a resource. As member companies provide their presentations BASES is there to answer questions and provide additional context of what may be happening regionally.

Question: How much of the population is subscribed to MyCNN notifications?

Answer: It's in the thousands. Vince shared that he does not have the correct number today but can get it. Registrations to the system have increased significantly over the past week. Vince would like to reach out to Lambton College and to get a student to dive into this/help understand who is subscribing and why. Vince also believes there is an opportunity to reach out directly to subscribers to receive their feedback. *Post meeting supplement: over 13000 subscribers.*

Question: People are looking for information when sirens go off and do not always think ahead before an emergency. How does the public know to sign on to Everbridge?

Answer: Their strategy is to promote BASES to many different audiences in the region and this inherently includes real time messaging via MyCNN, emergency preparedness resources, etc. EP week included newspaper promotions of BASES. Radio advertisements promoted BASES. BASES is promoted on traffic boxes all over the region. They are also making presentations to Council, Rotary Clubs, Classes at Lambton College, etc. to connect BASES to different groups in different ways.

Question: Do you plan to adopt a live tweet or social media aspect as part of notification system?

Answer: Vince answered that BASES just recently went live on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. They absolutely need to improve in this space as there is a large demographic of the community that use social media to connect. The important part of social media is that it is **two-way** as it allows people to respond to posts and engage with feedback to BASES and to others engaging. It is extremely important and powerful, and we are now ramping up our presence here.

CIAC MEMBER UPDATE

Isabelle provided a CIAC member progress update in response to the 2018 NAP Challenge Letter.

Background

Isabelle highlighted the October 2017 Global News presentation, entitled "Canada's Toxic Secret", which investigated "a troubling trend of leaks and spills in the Sarnia area, a concerning lack of government response, and the people who believe it's making them sick". While this television feature was seen as sensational, it highlighted ongoing NAP concerns about what they perceived as a lack of industry transparency and effective community dialogue in the Sarnia-Lambton area.

The NAP was concerned that RC companies in the Sarnia area were delegating their CAER responsibilities to SLEA, a cooperative of 20 industrial manufacturers that monitors ambient environmental conditions to assess the impact of its members on the local environment. Both RC companies and companies not part of RC are SLEA members. Current and former Panel members familiar with this issue felt that, as a result of delegating their CAER responsibilities, CIAC members in the Sarnia area were not meeting the RC standard of community dialogue, including dialogue with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation located in Chemical Valley.

Progress Update

The following provides an update on what CIAC members are doing to address each of the three recommendations in the 2018 Challenge Letter. While it has been three years since the initial Panel Letter was issued to the Board, CIAC is aware that significant activity has taken place with respect to engagement (industry, SLEA, First Nations, etc.), though some work was delayed because of the pandemic. Unfortunately, this progress has not been well communicated to the NAP.

Recommendation #1: *Release information to the public, including the First Nations community, on leaks and spills, when they occur.*

- CIAC members support [Clean Air Sarnia and Area](#), a real-time air quality monitoring site;
- CIAC members participate on Advisory Group to Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Ministry of Health (federal) and Aamjiwnaang First Nation's (AFN) air exposure governance group. The Advisory Group is chaired by Vince Gagner, SLEA GM, and Kris Lee, CIAC Verifier;
- CIAC members participated in CAER notification process; AFN received and shared all notices;
- recent soft launch of SLEA/CAER/IEC BASES project:
 - emergency and non-emergency notification (Everbridge tool) and community awareness and education;
 - notification system inspired in part by Aamjiwnaang Environment Committee's own community notification efforts;
 - ARLANXEO, Cabot, Imperial, INEOS Styrolution, NOVA Chemicals and Shell participate;
- BASES included in CIAC company management systems.

Recommendation #2: *Enhance the BCAP process to get more effective input on company practices and policies, to document that input in BCAP minutes, track decisions and follow up where necessary.*

- Financial support from NOVA Chemicals for renewal of BCAP;
- participation by all CIAC companies to drive improvements;
 - Cabot, Imperial, INEOS Styrolution, NOVA Chemicals and Shell participate (ARLANXEO manages its own CAP);
- engaged experienced facilitator to administrate, formalize and further document committee processes;
- in 2020, Terms of Reference to guide activities and objectives were developed and endorsed;
- established Ad Hoc recruitment committee to attract new committee members; and
- transitioned to virtual meetings in response to pandemic in alignment with guidance from public health officials.

Recommendation #3: *Renew efforts to involve the First Nation's community in BCAP. If they still do not participate, then seek ways for company representatives to meet with people within that community to share information and discuss their concerns.*

All CIAC member companies have:

- participated in development of Indigenous Accountability Code in collaboration with CIAC;

- expanded BCAP committee members to include 1 from Aamjiwnaang First Nation; and
- separate from BCAP, established schedule of annual meetings with Aamjiwnaang Chief and Council for continued open dialogue and relationship building.

Isabelle also highlighted the specific actions of Imperial, ARLANXEO, NOVA Chemicals, Shell, INEOS Styrolution, and Cabot with respect to First Nations and community engagement (see slides in the Appendix for more information).

Verifier's Perspectives

Isabelle has also been involved in discussions with Debbie Krukowski and Kris Lee to understand the verifier's perspectives on this issue. They have been pleased to see:

- stepped-up engagement with First Nations (but have less visibility into these actions/activities);
- CIAC representation on SLEA and CAER Boards and committees (however these entities do not replace leadership of RC members in terms of their own unique RC expectations for the region).

They are concerned/disappointed in:

- the recent "soft" launch of SLEA/CAER/IEC BASES project – they felt this was a missed opportunity for full blown promotion with the community, they also continue to worry that CIAC members will rely solely on BASES for sharing of information;
- the transparency and efficacy of CIAC member community engagement – pleased that companies are including risk management, emergency preparedness communications in their community outreach but concerned the dialogue is one-way (information distributed via a newsletter or Facebook); they would like to see a more meaningful exchange of ideas and understanding through conversation;
- lack of Plan-Do-Check Act at the CAER level; and
- lack of real change, despite work being undertaken to put processes in place for the BCAP.

Question: In measuring progress with the BCAP, do they follow up on verifications and findings requiring action? CIAC members could and should as these reports are publicly available.

Answer: Isabelle indicated that there are a number of members on the CAP that are not CIAC/RC members and may not share information in the same way that CIAC shares information. Verifiers Debbie and Kris have outlined this missed opportunity as well, requesting more sharing and discussion about learnings from verification. Jacob also highlighted that there is little sharing of verification results/walking through the steps that have been taken to address verifications. In fact, he has had issues with CIAC members that do not announce when they have completed a verification. This takes away the opportunity to go back to members that have recently been verified, to share their findings and concerns, and to solicit BCAP feedback.

Question: Are you having conversations with other individuals in addition to Debbie and Kris? There might be an opportunity to talk to BCAP members rather than focusing only on the verifiers.

Answer: Isabelle indicated that CIAC has had this discussion as well. Debbie and Kris have been involved in this issue for a long time and have good collective knowledge. Their perspective is based on very real experience of doing verifications. While CIAC did not have time to have a discussion with other CAP members, this is something they will look at pursuing.

Comment: The BCAP had a well-functioning system in the 80s, 90s, and into the 2000s. Then there were a number of high-profile incidents after this period in which the SWAT team was pulled in. This caused companies to significantly pull back from sharing information due to potential regulations. There is a need to build back trust with these communities and government agencies again.

Responses: Alex shared that if you work collaboratively with industry, they are more open to getting involved, as their employees are part of the community. It is important to avoid approaching them too aggressively. Vince also indicated that 9/11 had a significant impact on several aspects of society – people were worried about sharing information and worst-case scenarios from a security point of view.

Question: How does the Sarnia Environmental Health study relate to Plan-Do-Check?

Answer: Don shared that the project focuses on a few aspects, including air, medicinal plants, environmental stressors. In the meetings he has been involved in, CIAC members have made statements in support of engaging with this initiative and have made commitments to work together with those involved. Activities that go beyond the scope of project, into initiatives like BASES are helpful complements to the study, and CIAC members want to be seen as leading the way through such initiatives.

Comment: A note of caution that having discussions with Kris and Debbie is time well-spent, however they are two of many verifiers. Also, a key element of the Challenge Letter was about regulatory action against certain companies in Sarnia. These companies may have new initiatives in place; however, these initiatives may not necessarily target or address issues from previous verification reports. Also, some verifications pass over cycles and/or findings. It sounds like this is unfinished business and still a work in progress.

Response: Isabelle took note of this comment and indicated that the RC team will look at verifications due to happen this year to verify that everything is on schedule.

CLOSE MEETING

NAP members and CIAC staff shared their key takeaways from the meeting. In general, panel members felt that both presentations were informative and that the Challenge Letter process has proved worthwhile, especially when the process is taken seriously and allocated sufficient support from CIAC. The NAP expressed that there is still much progress to be made on the BCAP and it is important to include more verifiers in this discussion. They felt it was encouraging to see some momentum despite the pandemic situation and would like to explore gaps and opportunities going forward.

Next Steps

- The NAP will review and discuss both presentations during their In Camera Session on May 25, 2021.
- Questions remaining will be formalized and shared with CIAC.

APPENDIX

A. SLEA/CAER Status Report – Vince’s presentation slides



CIAC National
Advisory Panel Preser

B. CIAC Member Update – Isabelle’s presentation slides



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