

## **Standing Committee hearings on Harmonization**

October 25, 1997

The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development ENGO presentations went well - Martha Kostuch (Friends of the Old Man River) , Berkhard Mausberg (CEDF) and I gave 10 minute presentations followed by questions. The Committee seemed most concerned with the effects of downgrading environmental assessment. The hearings will continue through next week. The Committee is pretty much opposed to harmonization. But from casual talk after the hearings, I think they feel that their recs won't carry much weight.

During the hearings, we got a newsflash that the Ministers no longer expect to sign the accord at the November CCME meeting. Climate change has been pushed to the front of the Agenda so Harmonization has once again been put off. Gives us more time to raise concerns, write to MPs and keep fighting.

Juli Abouchar.