



National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment

*Building a Dialogue Towards a National Strategy for
Children's Health and Environment in Canada*

January – September 2007

Workshop #1

January 23–24, 2007

Crowne Plaza Ottawa, 101 Lyon Street, Ottawa, Ontario

Presented By:

Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE)

Pollution Probe is the lead CPCHE partner to deliver the National Policy Consultation Series

National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment

Overview

Pollution Probe, in cooperation with the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE), is organizing a *National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment*. This year-long process will involve hosting workshops in six regions of the country to engage and educate a broad range of stakeholders on children's health and environment issues.

The process will culminate in the preparation of a report on the results of the consultations. CPCHE members intend to follow up on the process by developing a *Children's Health and Environment Vision and Strategy for Canada*. The *Vision and Strategy* will focus attention on the need to implement more child-protective policies to reduce and eliminate exposure to toxic substances that CPCHE members believe are harming, or may harm, children in Canada. The broader goal of CPCHE is to achieve a fundamental shift in public behaviour towards reducing the risk of child-related toxic exposures.

Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment

CPCHE is an affiliation of groups with overlapping missions to improve children's

environmental health in Canada (www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca). Working across traditional boundaries (i.e., health, child care and environmental organizations), CPCHE provides common ground for working to protect children's health from exposure to environmental contaminants. The partnership aims to:

- Move children's environmental health issues into the minds of decision-makers, both on the front lines and at the policy level;
- Promote children's environmental health amongst caregivers and the public; and
- Coordinate activities and create efficiencies amongst the partners.

CPCHE's core partners are among the leading voices on children's environmental health issues in Canada. Partners include:

- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Canadian Child Care Federation
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Canadian Institute of Child Health
- Environmental Health Clinic — Women's College Hospital
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
- Ontario College of Family Physicians
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Pollution Probe
- South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- Toronto Public Health

Why Focus on Children?

Children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental contaminants. Relative to their body size, children breathe, eat and drink more than adults. This means that a child's body will take in and absorb more contaminants. Children also behave differently. Infants, toddlers and young children explore the world with their hands and mouths. Their exposure is greater than adults to contaminants in the air, soil and house dust, on indoor and outdoor surfaces, and in some consumer products.

As children grow, they pass through many developmental stages, each of which has different "windows of vulnerability." Even before a baby is conceived, men and women need to avoid exposure to substances that might harm the sperm or egg. Vulnerability continues during pregnancy and throughout childhood to the end of adolescence, as the brain, lungs and reproductive systems are still developing until adulthood. (For more information, see *Child Health and the Environment — A Primer* on the CPCHE website www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca).

The Purpose

The purpose of the workshop series is to build a dialogue towards a national strategy for children's health and environment. The series will share and build knowledge among the participants, with each regional workshop exploring different themes related to children's health and environment.

How Will the Policy Consultation Process Work?

A multi-stakeholder engagement model is being used for the *National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment*. This model complements CPCHE's mission to work across traditional boundaries to protect children from environmental exposures. The process will engage stakeholders from government, industry, academe, NGOs, health care practitioners and child care service providers. It will allow for and be respectful of different points of view.

Potential themes and timing for the workshops are shown below (but are still subject to change based on advice received from various stakeholders).

Workshop #1 — Children's Health and Environment: Setting the Stage

Local Host — McLaughlin Centre for Population Health, University of Ottawa

Location — Crowne Plaza Ottawa (101 Lyon Street), Ottawa, Ontario

Timing — January 23–23, 2007

Workshop #2 — Outdoor Air Quality: Implications for Children's Health

Local Host — Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Location — Toronto, Ontario

Timing — February 27–28, 2007

Workshop #3 — State of Children's Health and Environment Research in Canada

Local Host — To be determined

Location — Edmonton, Alberta

Timing — April 11–12, 2007

Workshop #4 — A Focus on Neurodevelopment

Local Host — Coalition on Children's

Environmental Health

Location — Fredericton, New Brunswick

Timing — May 15–16, 2007

Workshop #5 — A Focus on Consumer Products

Local Host — To be determined

Location — Montreal, Quebec

Timing — June 19–20, 2007

Workshop #6 — Policy Recommendations and Strategy Development

Local Host — National Collaborating Centre on Environmental Health

Location — Vancouver, British Columbia

Timing — September 25–26, 2007

The consultation process will be progressive, with each workshop building on knowledge gained in previous workshops. Participants will be selected from groups of stakeholders who share an interest in, or responsibility for, children's health and the environment. Invitees will include academics, scientists, policy experts, government and industry representatives, community groups and health care practitioners. CPCHE expects to have about 50–60 participants per workshop.

The outcome of the consultations cannot be determined in advance, but at a minimum CPCHE hopes to have a productive dialogue and to advance the education and understanding of all stakeholders on the important issue of children's health and the environment.

Consultation Sponsors

Funding and support for the *National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment* has been generously provided by:

Health Canada

Max Bell Foundation

Newalta Corporation

Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Others (to be added later)

Consultation Supporters

The following individuals are part of the advisory committee for the *National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment*:

Darcy Boyd, Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Anne Buntic, Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Bruce Caswell, Canadian Chemical Producers' Association

Keith Chanon, Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Kathleen Cooper, Canadian Environmental Law Association

Susan Ecclestone, Health Canada

Elizabeth Everhardus, Pollution Probe

Janet Mullins, Environment Canada

Eva Musso, Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Jennifer Maxwell, Intergovernmental Children's Task Group

Anne McConnell, Procter & Gamble

Ken Ogilvie, Pollution Probe (*Co-Chair*)

Richard Paton, Canadian Chemical Producers' Association

Anne-Marie Pelletier, Environment Canada

Tonya Surman, CPCHE (*Co-Chair*)

Franca Ursitti, Region of Peel and Ontario Public Health Association

National Policy Consultation Series Framework

Purpose of the Process

To build a dialogue towards a national strategy for children's health and environment and share knowledge among the participants, with each regional workshop exploring different themes related to children's health and environment.

CPCHE Partners
(health, children and environment groups)

Intergovernmental Committee on Health and the Environment

Other Supporters

January 2007

September 2007

Ottawa
Stage Setting
Jan. 23–24 '07

Toronto
Outdoor Air Quality
Feb. 27–28 '07

Edmonton
Research
April 11–12 '07

Fredericton
Neurodevelopment
May 15–16 '07

Montreal
Consumer Products
June 19–20 '07

Vancouver
Policy Strategy
Recommd'ns
Sept. 25–26 '07

Progressive consultation process — building on the knowledge gathered from the last event — along topical and geographic themes which differ from meeting to meeting, writers will evolve the workshop report and share the findings at each meeting and online — engaging a national constituency.

Chronicling the Dialogue

Building Social Capital

National CHE Constituency:

Improved knowledge of issues and ability to mobilize expertise and social capital in support of children's health and environment.

NPC Workshop Report

CPCHE Strategy & Policy Recommd'ns

Intergov'tal Children's Task Group

Substantive improvements to policy and programs protecting children's health and environment.

Workshop #1

Children's Health and Environment: Stage Setting

Agenda

Crowne Plaza Ottawa, 101 Lyon Street, Ottawa, Ontario

January 23–24, 2007

Building a Dialogue Towards a National Strategy for Children's Health and Environment in Canada

In this two-day workshop, we will provide an initial overview of the players, health effects and government responses to children's health and environment in Canada.

Day 1 — Tuesday, January 23, 2007

- 8:30 **Introduction and Welcome** — Tonya Surman, CPCHE Partnership Director
- 8:45 **Setting the Stage and Providing the Context for Children's Health and Environment** — Ken Ogilvie, Executive Director, Pollution Probe and Franca Ursitti, Environmental Research and Policy Analyst, Region of Peel and Ontario Public Health Association
- 9:15 **Roundtable Introductions**
- 9:45 **The Context for Preventing Children's Exposures to Toxic Chemicals** — Jenny Pronczuk, Medical Officer Toxicologist, Public Health and the Environment, World Health Organization
- 10:05 **Health Break**
- 10:30 **Children's Health and Environment: Science and Health Impacts** — Dr. Don Spady, Pediatrician and Epidemiologist, Departments of Pediatrics and Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta
- 10:50 **Industry Innovation in Addressing Children's Health and Environment Concerns** — Dr. Carol Henry, Vice President, American Chemistry Council

- 11:10 **Conversation Café** — In small groups, discuss the major themes from presentations
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 **Health Concerns Panel — New Evidence of Primary Health Effects, Concerns and Exposures**
Chair: Dr. James Gomes, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa
Respiratory Illness and Beyond — Dr. Loren Vanderlinden, Toronto Public Health
Endocrine Disruption — Dr. Warren Foster, McMaster University
Neurodevelopment — Dr. Donna Mergler, Université du Québec à Montréal
Cancer in Children — Dr. Claire Infante-Rivard, McGill University
- 2:15 **Question and Discussion Period**
- 3:00 **Health Break**
- 3:20 **Cracker Barrel***
EPA Project, Training Health Care Professionals about Children's Health and the Environment using WHO Training Modules — Regina De La Campa, Project Coordinator, Canadian Institute of Child Health
Children's Environmental Health Learning Kit — Robin (Kealey) McMillan, Project Manager, Canadian Child Care Federation
Chemical Substances Web Portal — Government of Canada — Craig Haynes and Dr. Miriam Padolsky, Manager, Risk Communications and Public Involvement, Risk Management Bureau, Health Canada
Environmental History Taking — Dr. Riina Ines Bray, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto and Medical Director, Environmental Health Clinic, Women's College Hospital
Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment Website — Myriam Beaulne, Health Promotion Coordinator, CPCHE
Responsible Care Program® — Brian Wastle, Vice President, Responsible Care®, Canadian Chemical Producers' Association
- 4:30 **Plenary Session**
- 4:45 **Closing Thoughts and Adjourn** — Tonya Surman, CPCHE Partnership Director

A reception will follow from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Ottawa.

** The Cracker Barrel consists of small group interactions with a series of presenters. The groups move around the room and spend time with every presenter.*

Day 2 — Wednesday, January 24, 2007

- 8:45 **Welcome and Recap from Day 1** — Tonya Surman, CPCHE Partnership Director
- 9:30 **Policy Briefing Panel — Policy Tools to Protect Children’s Health and Environment**
Chair: Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Director, Health Impacts Bureau, Health Canada
CEPA Within an International Perspective — Kathleen Cooper, Senior Researcher, Canadian Environmental Law Association
The Canadian Tool Set — Paul Glover, Director General, Health Canada
Intergovernmental Committee: Children’s Task Group — Jennifer Maxwell, Chair, Committee on Health and Environment (CHE) Children’s Task Group
Responsible Chemicals Management — Dr. Roger Keefe, Imperial Oil
- 10:45 **Health Break**
- 11:15 **Question and Discussion Period**
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 **Ministerial Keynote Address** — Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health
- 1:15 **Response and Update from Workshop Participants** — Ken Ogilvie, Executive Director, Pollution Probe
- 1:30 **Question and Discussion Period**
- 2:30 **Health Break**
- 2:45 **Breakout Group Session**
- 4:00 **Report Back to Plenary**
- 4:45 **Closing Thoughts and Adjourn** — Tonya Surman, CPCHE Partnership Director

Registration Form

National Policy Consultation Series on Children's Health and Environment

Workshop #1 — Stage Setting

January 23–24, 2007

Crowne Plaza Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Fax Back Registration Form to 416-926-1601 or email to btran@pollutionprobe.org

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Country _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive ongoing updates as the NPC series progresses.

Note: The NPC is an **invitation only** event.

If you have suggestions for additional invitees, please forward them to btran@pollutionprobe.org.

There is no registration fee to attend the series; however, participants are expected to cover the cost of their travel and accomodation, unless otherwise arranged.

Please indicate which of the other workshops in the series you would be interested in attending:*

This is not for registration purposes but as a means of anticipating interest. Participation in each workshop is limited and will be by **invitation only.*

- Consultation #2 — Feb. 27–28, 2007, Toronto, ON
- Consultation #3 — April 11–12, 2007, Edmonton, AB
- Consultation #4 — May 15–16, 2007, Fredericton, NB
- Consultation #5 — June 19–20, 2007, Montreal, QC
- Consultation #6 — Sept. 25–26, 2007, Vancouver, BC

Additional Information

Hotel Information

A block of **guest rooms** have been reserved at the Crowne Plaza Ottawa at a rate of \$119 per night for January 22 and 23, 2007. To make a reservation, call 1-800-227-6963 by **January 15, 2007** and quote code POL or mention Pollution Probe.

Crowne Plaza Ottawa is located at
101 Lyon Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5T9
(t) 613-237-3600, (f) 613-237-9114

The hotel is 20 minutes by car from the train station and 30 minutes by car from the airport. It is steps from Parliament Hill.



Additional information is available at www.crowneottawa.ca.

Reception Details

A social reception for all workshop speakers and participants will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on January 23, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Ottawa in the reception space outside the main meeting room.

Additional Information

For additional details regarding logistics, contact BoAnne Tran of Pollution Probe at 416-926-1907 x250 or btran@pollutionprobe.org.