



*Action Today
for Children's
Tomorrow!*

Scan of Current
Resources, Programs and Services
Offered in New Brunswick

March 2008

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Goal 1: To develop and maintain a collaborative effort of all stakeholders involved in children's environmental health in New Brunswick

University of New Brunswick

- Working with NCE Allergies Paediatric Asthma Clinic in Saint John and NB Lung Association.

Goal 2: To develop and advance educational opportunities for families and professionals

Association francophone des parents du N.-B.

- Various awareness activities for parents and families are offered in partnership with other agencies.

Belledune Citizens Committee

- Working for soil remediation in Belledune to meet CCME guidelines.

Canadian Cancer Society

- Evidence-based position statements on specific contaminants, national information.

Citizens Coalition for Clean Air

- Provide information database to professional organizations such as NBASW and Teachers' Association.

Conservation Council of NB

- Information on healthy alternatives for cleaning supplies.
- Health Watch" which will focus public attention on the links between pollution and health in the province.
- "All things efficient" which includes mould and moisture in its home audit program, educational materials and speakers' bureau.

Falls Brook Centre

- Ecological Governance program is a series of resource materials (web units, curriculum units, role-playing guides) that empowers middle school children to make sound environmental choices that are good for the local and global environments. It provides a critical framework for analyzing issues like industrial contaminants and the role children can play in exerting their rights to shape their environment.
- New Brunswick Sustainable School Challenge - This program allows students to analyze the environmental impact of their actions and school policies, connecting local practices with global issues. The ultimate goal is taking action on their school environment.
- Education programs on environmentally friendly alternatives for energy and agriculture.

Health Canada

- Health professional workshop to bring together a diverse community of practice with the goal of identifying gaps in education and training as well as needs in terms of tools (Health Canada – Vulnerable Populations, November 2007).

NB Association of Naturopathic Doctors

- Provide talks / information sessions to parents, interest groups to raise awareness on the impact of environment / chemicals on children's health, prevention and healthy alternatives, resources and handouts.

NB Department of Environment

- Education and Awareness Project: communicate that children spend 90% of their time inside which is high risk. (Oct 2007).

NB Department of Health, Public Health

- Health presentations to parents of children entering kindergarten from Health Learners professionals.
- Inform parents about alternatives to pesticides for head lice.
- Asthma Day Camp for children 8 – 12 and parents.

NB Lung Association

- Healthy Home Audit, Healthy Lawn Care booklet, Towards a Scent-Free Environment video, the Healthy School Tool Kit, and the Be Tire Smart, Play Your Part video on line at www.nb.lung.ca.

- Gardening for Health Program is presently delivering public and community sessions about how to have a pleasant green space without pesticides. The Healthy Lawn Care booklet is available in French and English at www.nb.lung.ca and to participants in hard copy. Free lawn signs that state “Ask Here about Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care” and Healthy Lawn care booklets to distribute are also available to interested community members.
- Healthy Home talks for parents at Family Resource Centres and to Extramural Hospital staff members around the province. Through this program, which teaches people simple actions to improve air quality and reduce climate change gas emissions, participants are asked to make a commitment to one or more actions and are followed up at least three weeks afterwards to see if they have fulfilled their commitment and did anything else. Healthy Home Audits are provided for participants. In the case of extra-mural hospital staff, extra educational material is provided to pass on to their clients.
- Neighbourhood Wood Burning Campaign which aims to educate the public (and municipal leaders) about the environmental health impacts of wood burning – both open burning and use of woodstoves and other appliances. Program materials include a variety of brochures, along with Environment Canada’s Model Municipal By-Law for Regulating Wood Burning Appliances.
- The Healthy School Program aims to train in-school teams to identify and solve common environmental health problems with minimum training, and at little or no cost. The program has produced a 20-minute school walk through video <http://www.nb.lung.ca/schools>.

NB Soil and Crop Improvement Association

- Promote environmentally beneficial farming practices to decrease agriculture foot print.

Public Health Agency of Canada

- Funding for Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program.
- Work with the Family Resource Centres on prevention, awareness and education on the environment. Special programs are in place to meet the needs of parents and children.

Goal 3: To encourage and promote research

Conservation Council of NB

- "Health Watch" program will research the incidence of disease in communities adjacent to industrial polluters and those subject to long-term pesticide use. The results will be posted on the Internet and presented to local communities.
- Studying the health impacts of large scale industry and pesticide use on children and adults in various areas of the province.

Health Canada

- Chemical Management Plan which is reviewing a number of high volume / usage chemical substances to determine the best risk management approach (www.chemicalsubstances.ca, Dec 2006).
- Canadian Health Measures Survey is studying / collecting data on contamination levels in the body of those 16- 19.
- Coordinate, encourage and support research on specific toxicants and other areas of interest (Health Canada – Vulnerable Populations).

NB Lung Association

- A study on the level of exhaust pollutants on school buses and on children's walking routes to school has been conducted. (In partnership with Health Canada, Environment Canada, and the New Brunswick Department of Education, and with the help of the Research and Productivity Council of New Brunswick and Environment and Human Health Inc, Connecticut).
- National Lung Health Framework – a comprehensive strategy and best practices for Canada to improve respiratory health (2006 -2009).
- GIS webmapping of environment data, hospital admissions, mortality data, health regions, demographics. Creating software and tools for NGO use. (2003).
- International Centre for air quality and health – New England and Eastern Canada – public education, research and advocacy for airshed emissions and exposure. (2001).

SASSI

- Research project on the relationship between maternal depression and asthma, account for genetic predisposition (2008 if funded).

Université de Moncton

- Evaluate the concentration of metals in seafood from the Bay of Chaleur (Département de chimie et biochimie, 2005-2009).
- Understanding the effects of contaminants on miscarriages and therefore on the health of the fetus (Institut-Armand-Frappine, 2009 - 2012).
- Study the exposure of pregnant women to contaminants in marine life in the Baie des Chaleurs (Institut-Armand-Frappine, 2007 - 2010).

University of New Brunswick

- Support intervention for youth with asthma and allergies and their parents (2008 if funded by CIHR).

Goal 4: To improve policy and legislation related to children's environmental health

Belledune Citizens Committee

- Lobby for provincial government to adopt CCME guidelines for soil remediation.

Canadian Cancer Society

- Community Right to Know lobbying for federal legislation.

Cities of New Brunswick

- Resolution sent to the Minister of the Environment to urge the province to ban the sale and use of combination fertilizer and herbicide products in New Brunswick.

Conservation Council of NB

- Drafted a Charter of Environmental Justice for New Brunswick – (a declaration of fundamental principles on which an Environmental Bill of Rights in New Brunswick should be built.)
<http://conservationcouncil.ca/archives/2005/ejc-e.pdf>.

Health Canada

- CEPA and UPP review.

NB Department of Education

- Province-wide No-Idling School Bus Policy introduced (October 2005).

NB Lung Association

- Through the New Brunswick Pesticide Working Group, the New Brunswick Lung Association has regularly communicated with the Departments of the Environment and Health with regards to the use of cosmetic pesticides in New Brunswick.
- Advocate at national level for reductions in air pollution and Greenhouse Gas emissions including National Framework for Air Emission Regulations and Review of CEPA.
- National Lung Health Framework – a comprehensive strategy and best practices for Canada to improve respiratory health.

Goal 5: To reduce exposure to specific contaminants through strategic directions

5B: Primarily Airborne Contaminants

Radon:

Health Canada

- Radon information workshops for industry stakeholders (October 2007).

Tobacco:

Canadian Cancer Society & NB Lung

- Advocacy for better bylaws for second-hand smoke and smoke free areas.

Health Canada

- Quit for Life program in high schools.

Pediatric Asthma Education Program

- Provide smoking cessation information to parents attending asthma clinic.

School District 18

- Supporting resources for Health curriculum.
- Grants for Tobacco Free schools.
- Teens Against Tobacco Use – peer support groups.

Mould, wood smoke and ultraviolet radiation:

Canadian Cancer Society

- Presentations in schools on UV safety.

Village of Doaktown

- Replacing dehumidifier in arena to remove stale air and moisture.

Ozone and smog

St. Croix Estuary Project

- Awareness in Charlotte County of the importance of air quality with a focus on particulate matter.

5C: Diffused Environmental Contaminants: Multiple Pathways to Exposure including Food, Water, Soil and Air

Heavy Metals

Université de Moncton, Département de chimie et biochimie

- Review the existing data concerning the contaminants present in the Bay of Chaleur region. (2005-2008).

Pesticides

NB Lung Association

- Through the New Brunswick Pesticide Working Group, encouraging efforts by Landscape New Brunswick to educate their members in good plant health care practices.

Several Organizations

- Lobby for ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides.