



*Action Today
for Children's
Tomorrow!*

Activity and
Progress Report

May 2005 - May 2008

Vision

To provide a clean and healthy environment for children in New Brunswick.

Mission

To work collaboratively to reduce children's exposure to environmental contaminants that may contribute to illness, disability, disease or death.

Overview

In May 2005, a committee of New Brunswick organizations and agencies began discussions on developing a strategy for action to reduce children's exposure to environmental contaminants that may affect health by causing illness, disability, disease or death. From these discussions, it was decided to establish a broad network of government departments, non-government organizations, private sector agencies, communities and individuals who are interested in working collaboratively to address this issue.

The format of the collaborative effort is one which brings all stakeholders together in a spirit of mutual cooperation and encourages each agency to contribute in whatever way possible. Like a braid, this effort is made stronger by intertwining everyone's efforts. Agencies participating in the collaborative effort pool resources, expertise, knowledge and experience and, through building upon each other's strengths, develop and implement a coordinated action strategy that will benefit all of New Brunswick.

Accomplishments

- New Brunswick is the first province to establish a diverse province-wide collaborative effort to reduce children's exposure to contaminants.
- 160 people from 72 agencies are involved.
- The Action Strategy, developed by people from across the province representing different sectors and cultures, is ongoing.
- Steps to implement the Action Strategy begin.
- A listserv on Children's Environmental Health is established.
- Four collaborative teams are established to launch components of the strategy under objectives for educational tools, educating parents and professionals, developing policy and addressing consumer products.
- A wide number of potential contaminants are considered and objectives are set for each one.
- Training in children's environmental health is provided to 127 professionals across the province.
- Informational texts are provided to adult literacy organizations.

Planning Committee Members

Mary Ann Coleman, New Brunswick Environmental Network
Rosemary Boyle, Canadian Cancer Society - New Brunswick
Scott MacLean, NB Department of Health
Sharon Flatt, Conservation Council of NB
Gabrielle Kretschmar, NB Partners in Agriculture
Todd Arsenaault, NB Department of Environment
Nadine Ives, NB Lung Association

Children's Environmental Health Strategy for **ACTION**

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

Objectives	Activity Status
<p>1(a) Establish a collaborative effort of all organizations involved in children's environmental health</p> <p><i>Lead – CEH Planning Committee</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify strategic partners to meet and consider possible strategy development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish CEH Planning Committee to meet, correspond via email and consider possible strategy development (March 2006) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pool resources of strategic partners for facilitator & venue to begin development (April – October 2006)  Maintain stakeholders list & obtain contact information for ongoing communication and liaison among all stakeholders  Secure sufficient fiscal resources to enable the collaborative effort <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop implementation structures needed for the collaborative effort (April 2008)  Establish implementation structures  Hold province-wide meeting to ratify the action strategy (November 20, 2008)  Develop communications plan for the action strategy
<p>1(b) Encourage the involvement of all stakeholders including government departments and parents, children's, health and environmental organizations</p> <p><i>Lead – CEH Planning Committee</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan agenda for strategy development and recruit additional partners to CEH Planning Committee (March – June 2006)  Identify additional partners and conduct outreach efforts to engage them in developing the strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engage stakeholders in strategy development (Series of province-wide meetings November 21, 2006, October 16, 2007 and February 12, 2008)  Engage stakeholders in development of implementation structures (November 20, 2008)  Inform stakeholders on progress  Institute quarterly letter  Engage stakeholders in development of implementation structures (November 20, 2008)  Hold regular meetings of stakeholder teams  Hold meetings for team leaders  Collaborate with the CPCHE on national initiatives

<p>1(c) Build capacity within the stakeholder groups</p> <p><i>Lead – CEH Planning Committee</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify current programs & activities  Assist the stakeholders to build partnerships to leverage in-kind support and funds for the activities of the collaborative effort  Conduct professional development during annual meetings of the collaborative effort  Develop an advisory council
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Goal 2: To develop and advance educational opportunities for families and professionals

Objectives	Activity Status
<p>2(a) Increase the quality, quantity and accessibility of educational tools</p> <p><i>Lead – Team 2A</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Identify and develop inventory of educational resources on contaminants  Develop a searchable database to make resources more accessible  Establish and maintain a clearing-house of resources and speakers  Identify and build a community championship program including champions for different regions, champions for different work places and high-profile champions.
<p>2(b) Inform parents and professionals about environmental health concerns for children</p> <p><i>Lead – Team 2B</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Provide information to parents of young children at either the hospital or kindergarten registration  Provide professionals that provide services to children with information for parents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement a Green Baby program (Spring 2008) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Host professional training for children’s service providers (127 New Brunswick professionals trained, June 9-17, 2008)  Establish a Train-the-Trainer program for professionals  Use existing newsletters for tips and articles  Link into existing events as speakers and educator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide informational texts to adult literacy organizations (June 2008)
<p>2(c) Inform and engage the public and increase public support to reduce exposure to contaminants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Establish an awareness plan using key messages about contaminants and promoting healthy alternatives  Develop public service announcements; host periodic public events, etc  Provide information to the public about the Challenge Initiative (<i>Lead – Team Consumer Products</i>)

2(d) Encourage industries to become leaders in protecting children’s environmental health	
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Goal 3: To encourage and promote research

Objectives	Activity Status
3(a) Support the preparation of comprehensive reports on NB children’s environmental health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Encourage the establishment of children’s environmental health indicators  Support the establishment of baseline data on the health status of NB children  Work to increase the representation of New Brunswick children in the Health Canada biomonitoring survey (<i>Lead – Team Consumer Products</i>)  Develop a research portal to share information on New Brunswick based research (<i>Lead - Conservation Council of NB</i>)  Encourage surveillance mechanisms to collect data on the incidence of children’s disease related to exposure to contaminants
3(b) Identify research gaps and support research to better understand the impact of contaminants and interactions of contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Encourage national research into health effects of environmental contaminants
3(c) Support research that identifies and fills gaps in best practices in children’s environmental health	
3(d) Work towards sufficient resources for research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Identify existing resources  Develop a clearinghouse to assist in connecting researchers and funding.

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

Objectives	Activity Status
<p>4(a) To spearhead and work collaboratively with national policy and legislative initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Support the development of consumer right to know legislation and product information disclosure  Support federal legislation to reduce, control and eliminate environmental contaminants  Support legislation requiring complete environmental and health impact assessments of all products and manufacturing processes  Advocate for national regulatory controls on consumer products
<p>4(b) Encourage the establishment of government agencies and the development to legislation to uphold the rights of children to a healthy environment</p> <p><i>Lead – Team 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Investigate the establishment of a N.B. secretariat for children's environmental health  Encourage the establishment of an Auditor General for the Environment  Work to establish a Children's Health Environmental Bill of Rights  Investigate Environmental Bill of Rights legislation in other jurisdictions
<p>4(c) Advance specific provincial legislative or policy initiatives to reduce children's exposure to contaminants</p> <p><i>Lead – Team 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Develop a policy lens for all NB government policies  Encourage enabling legislation to allow municipalities to act  Promote prevention over exposure as a health care approach
<p>4(d) Support the incorporation of children's environmental health concerns into provincial government initiatives through multiple departments</p> <p><i>Lead – Team 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Encourage the development of a multi Department collaborative advisory group  Establish environmental health audits in all publicly owned buildings  Improve awareness of public participation opportunities
<p>4(e) Encourage municipal governments to consider children's environmental health when policy is developed or updated</p>	

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

Objectives	Activity Status
<p>5(a) Identify contaminants and establish criteria for assessment</p> <p><i>Lead – Planning Committee</i></p>	<p> Develop objectives for specific contaminants</p> <p> Apply assessment criteria to each contaminant and consider possible action</p> <p> Develop objectives for additional substances including Antibiotics, Trihalomethane THM and Fluoride</p>

5B: Primarily Airborne Contaminants

Objectives	Activity Status
5(b)(i) Radon: increase compliance with the new Health Canada guideline for radon	 Establish a survey to review radon levels in NB schools and homes
5(b)(ii) Tobacco smoke: Eliminate and prevent exposure of environmental tobacco smoke to children	
5(b)(iii) Mould, wood smoke and ultraviolet radiation: To facilitate public understanding of methods to reduce children's exposure to mould, wood smoke and ultra violet radiation	<p> Measure the current level of public understanding about the dangers of Mould, Wood Smoke, Ultra Violet Radiation and the available methods to reduce exposure</p> <p> Develop appropriate education tools to fill gaps</p>
5 (b)(iv) Asbestos: To develop an understanding of children's exposure to asbestos across New Brunswick	 Review status of asbestos removal in schools and other buildings frequented by children.
5(b)(v) Ozone and Smog: Develop a culture in New Brunswick among parents about the importance of air quality to the health of children with a focus on particulate matter, ozone and smog (NOX, SOX and VOC's).	 Provide real-time air quality information in formats more readily available to the public.

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

Objectives	Activity Status
5(c)(i) Lead: Reduce paediatric blood lead levels in New Brunswick	 Assess paediatric blood lead levels in New Brunswick in a statistically significant study
5(c)(ii) CCA: Eliminate the exposure of children to CCA (chromated copper arsenic)	 Educate homeowners on the danger of existing structures, proper disposal (i.e. no burning) and how to tell whether they contain CCA
5(c)(iii) Pesticides: Eliminate children's exposure to pesticides	 Encourage policy debate on ban on use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes  Thorough review of Pesticides Control Act  Advocate federal ban on combined weed and feed products  Advocate federal ban on concentrated products that require mixing by the homeowner  Survey NB surface and ground waters for presence of agricultural and forestry sector applied pesticides
5(c)(iv) Heavy metals: Establish an understanding of the level of exposure of children in New Brunswick to mercury, cadmium, thallium and set goals to reduce the blood levels of each contaminant.	 Conduct a study of the levels of mercury, cadmium and thallium in children in various regions of the province  Review the existing data concerning the contaminants present in the Bay of Chaleur region. (Université de Moncton, Département de chimie et biochimie, 2005-2008)
5(c)(v) Food compounds of concern such as growth hormones, food additives, flavour enhancers and food preservatives: Establish an understanding of the effects of these compounds on children's development, including neurological and hormone implications.	

5D: Consumer Products

Objectives	Activity Status
<p>5(d) Plastics, PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers), formaldehyde and endocrine disruptors: Assess the significance of the exposure of New Brunswick children to contaminants present in consumer products.</p> <p><i>Lead – Team Consumer Products</i></p>	<p> Assess exposure of New Brunswick children to plastics, PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers), formaldehyde and endocrine disruptors.</p>