

Statement of Endorsement

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP

Director, Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good Director, Global Observatory on Pollution and Health Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society

As a pediatrician who has worked for more than four decades to protect children against hazardous exposures in the environment, and the grandson of man who emigrated to Boston from Nova Scotia, I am pleased and honored to express my strong support for the child-focused Environmental Bill of Environmental Rights that will soon be before the New Brunswick Provincial Legislature.

Our children are the most vulnerable among us to lead, pesticides, air pollution and toxic chemicals in the environment. Kilogram for kilogram of body weight, children are more heavily exposed to these hazards than adults, and their exquisitely sensitive developing organ systems are easily damaged. Even very low-dose exposures to toxic chemicals that would cause no harm to an adult can cause lifelong injury to children, impairing their brains, nervous systems, lungs, immune systems and reproductive organs. All of these dangers will be magnified in the years ahead by the looming threat of global climate change.

Because our children are defenseless against hazards in the environment, we adults have a special responsibility to protect children and to recognize their human right to a safe and healthy environment in which they can grow, play, learn and develop.

Passage of this child-focused Bill of Environmental Rights is the right, moral and ethical thing to do. Passage of this Bill will be good for New Brunswick and good for Canada because it will give the province and the nation a generation of strong, healthy, intelligent and economically productive adults who will lead New Brunswick through the 21st century.

I strongly encourage you to pass the NB Bill of Environmental Rights: An Act to Protect Children, all New Brunswickers and Nature.