

Saint John Medical Society
Environment Committee Presentation

January 29, 1996

The Saint John Medical Society commends Mr. V. Blaney, Minister for the Environment, for holding these public forums enabling the citizens to express their concerns regarding the air quality.

The following are suggestions for the new clean Air Act now under consideration by the Ministry of Environment.

1. That there will be one body that exercises primary responsibility for the environment in Saint John with an effective system for enforcement of environmental laws put in place.
2. That the Department of Environment should have enough inspectors in Saint John with the power to enforce environmental laws with consultation with lawyers who are experienced in that field.
3. That the Provincial Government put in place legislation that will facilitate private prosecutions of polluters should citizens wish to pursue that as an avenue.
4. That the Judicature Act of the Province be amended so that citizens can seek injunctions from courts to stop industrial pollution. At the moment the Act prohibits citizens from seeking injunctions without permission of the Attorney General of the Province.
5. That the Province create an Environmental Improvement Capital Fund to be financed by fines resulting from prosecutions and special taxes on fossil fuels. This fund could assist in environmental clean-up and encourage energy conservation.
6. That pollution control at source be the primary focus of reducing air emissions by requiring the employment of the best available control technology of each emission source as a requirement to granting operating permits.
7. That all public and private industries in Saint John take immediate concrete steps to establish controls of their respective pollution using the best available technology.
8. That the Department of Environment expand their cooperation and coordinate law enforcement activities with the Department of Health's district medical office. In many instances, circumstances giving rise to an offence under the Clear Environment Act will also be an offence under the Health Act.
9. That the Provincial air quality regulations be reviewed so as to ensure that they are adequately protecting the citizens of Saint John while taking into account local atmospheric and topographic conditions. In particular, the present air quality standards must be examined carefully to ensure that they are appropriate for Saint John's unique environment.

10. That there be available well-equipped and well-staffed laboratory facilities identified for the analysis of environmental samples in the fields of Toxicology, Microbiology and Epidemiology to private citizens, government and industry.
11. That the Department of Environment jointly with the Department of Education undertake a program of education to sensitize the public as to the need of a clean environment.

N.N. Isa, Md,

Chairman,

Environment Committee

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