



Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment

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Welcome to the seventeenth Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment!

Visit us at: www.cnhhe-rcshe.ca

If you have new information that would be useful to others on any aspect of human health and the environment, please forward it to us for inclusion in the next Bulletin:

barb.mackinnon@nb.lung.ca. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **February 12, 2010**.

CONFERENCES

Registration Now Open for the McGill Water Conference

The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada is pleased to announce that registration for the Canadian Water: Towards a New Strategy conference is now open. Focusing on issues related to Canadian water policies, the conference will be held from March 25-26, 2010 in Montreal. Please visit the conference program at www.mcgill.ca/water2010/programme.

GENERAL

New Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) Initiative: Environmental Trends

To register or for more information about the newsletter, please send an email to: indicateurs-indicators@ec.gc.ca.

Canadian Environmental Health Atlas – Call for Contributions

We are seeking topics and case studies to fit into seven content themes: Air Quality, Water Quality, Climate, Built Environment, Environmental Contaminates, Rural and Remote Health Issues, and Social & Political Environments. The Atlas will present research at various scales (national, regional, and local) and be linked to specific health outcomes and public health practices important to Canadians. For details on how to contribute, please visit <http://www.cnhhe-rcshe.ca/pdf/EH%20Atlas%20call%20for%20contributions.pdf>.

Environmental Health Research Study: British Columbia Institute of Technology

If you are female and over the age of 15, please take a few moments to fill out a survey created by a BCIT student. Please share this link with family, friends and colleagues. You can find the survey at:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?l=en&formkey=dFVsN0hMdWRZWkpVTW9jaU5CdUdONmc6MA>.

Electric and Magnetic Fields at Extremely Low Frequencies: It's Your Health, Health Canada – Update

The It's Your Health article on Electric and Magnetic Fields At Extremely Low Frequencies has been updated with new information and is now available at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/environ/magnet-eng.php>.

CMP Challenge Batch 8 Draft SARS, RM Scope Documents and Notices of Intent

Notices with respect to Batch 8 of the CMP Challenge were published in the Canada Gazette Part I, Vol. 144 No. 5 on Saturday, January 30, 2010. The public has until March 31, 2010 to submit written comments. The draft screening assessment reports and the risk management scope documents for these substances that are available on the Chemical Substances Web site at: <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/batch-lot-8/index-eng.php>.

New Film Discusses Pesticides in Foods

Please click on the link below to listen to a 6-minute trailer on a movie dealing with pesticides in foods, entitled: Our children will accuse us! <http://nosenfantsnousaccuseront-lefilm.com/bande-annonce.html>

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Information for Ontario's Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Using data submitted to the National Pollutant Release Inventory in 2007 (the most recent validated data available), the report found that facilities in 18 source protection areas and regions released more than 32 million kilograms of toxic chemicals and 722 million kilograms of criteria air contaminants (pollutants that cause smog and acid rain) to the air. To read the full media release, please visit: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2010/07/c6709.html>.

Contaminated House Dust Linked to Parking Lots With Coal Tar Sealant

Apartments with adjacent parking lots treated with the coal-tar based sealcoat contained house dust with much higher concentrations of PAHs than apartments next to other types of parking lots, according to new research published online in *Environmental Science and Technology*. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100113112056.htm>.

Frogs Pass Flame Retardants From Food to Eggs

A study examining frogs in South China shows for the first time that frogs can pick up PBDE flame retardants from their food, concentrate them in their tissues and organs and deposit higher amounts of them in their eggs, exposing the next generation and potentially affecting frog populations. The concentrations of PBDEs were greater in the frogs than in their food. The results indicate the fire suppressors may have the potential to biomagnify – increase in concentration with each increasing level of the food chain, as occurs, for example, with the insecticide DDT. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/pbdes-pass-from-food-to-frog-to-eggs/>.

Ottawa Orders Study Into Environmental, Health Effects of Making Renewable Fuels

A study has been ordered into the environmental and health effects of producing ethanol and biodiesel after other countries found facilities that make renewable fuels could be behind problems with air, water and human health. "Based on global production levels from the past three years alone, there is now evidence of implications to the environment from biofuels-based ethanol production facilities," says a government document released Wednesday. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.mjtimes.sk.ca/Canada---World/Society/2010-01-06/article-407293/Ottawa-orders-study-into-environmental,-health-effects-of-making-renewable-fuels/1>.

Environmental Impact Study on Oilsands Slanted Toward Big Oil: Federal Documents

Newly released federal documents have revealed some potentially inconvenient truths about the environmental impact of Alberta's oilsands industry, along with the risks and economic costs of the Harper government's climate change strategy. Officials from Environment Canada who reviewed the original package, warned that it reflected the views of oil companies instead of the facts. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Environmental%20impact%20study%20oilsands%20slanted%20toward%20federal%20documents/2417449/story.html>.

6 U.S. Baby Bottle Firms Agree to Stop Using BPA

All six major baby bottle companies — Avent, Disney First Years, Gerber, Dr. Brown, Playtex and Evenflow — have agreed to voluntarily ban BPA from bottles. Over 130 studies over the past decade have linked even low levels of BPA to serious health problems, breast cancer, obesity and the early onset of puberty, among other disorders. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.canada.com/sports/2010wintergames/baby%20bottle%20firms%20agree%20stop%20using/1362111/story.html?id=1362111>.

FDA Shifts Stance on BPA, Announces "Some Concern" About Children's Health

In a major shift, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Friday that it has “some concern” about the effects of bisphenol A on children’s health and is launching new research to answer key questions that may lead to regulation of the chemical. The announcement basically puts the federal government’s regulatory agency in line with federal scientists when it comes to the controversial, estrogen-like chemical. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/fda-shifts-stance-on-bpa>.

Elevated Amount of BPA Can Increase Cardiac Risk by 45%, Study Finds

Elevated exposure to bisphenol A has been linked in a new study to a significantly increased risk of cardiovascular disease, the second time researchers have made a connection between the widely used plastic-making compound and heart ailments. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/low-amount-of-bpa-can-increase-cardiac-risk-by-45-per-cent-study-finds/article1428929/>.

Zinc Blamed for Denture-Wearers' Problems

Zinc in denture adhesives has been blamed in dozens of cases of nerve damage. The products, namely Poligrip brands from GlaxoSmithKline and Fixodent from Procter & Gamble, use zinc as a bonding agent. Scientists have only recently drawn a link between the zinc-containing denture creams and possible neurological problems. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/sciencemedicine/story/D822D16988008F43862576AA000958E1?OpenDocument>.

POPs Lead to Insulin Resistance in Rats

A new study in rats shows that persistent organic pollutants (POPs) – at levels found in food – cause insulin resistance and associated obesity and liver disease in the animals. Until now, scientists could not positively conclude that POPs influenced the onset of diabetes. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/pops-lead-to-insulin-resistance-in-rats/>.

Phthalates May Play a Role in ADHD Symptoms

The Korean students in the study who were identified as having ADHD symptoms were more likely to have higher levels of phthalate chemical markers in their urine than children without symptoms of the disorder. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/phthalates-may-have-a-role-in-adhd>.

Health Canada to Test Kids' Jewelry for Cadmium, Finds Lead in Some Items

Health Canada wants to get a better handle on how frequently cadmium is found in inexpensive children's jewelry sold in this country and will soon start sampling items for the toxic metal. A recent investigation in the United States by the Associated Press news agency found a fair proportion of items of children's jewelry imported from China contained cadmium. The metal, which is a carcinogen, is cheap and easy to mould. To read the full article, please visit: http://chealth.canoe.ca/channel_health_news_details.asp?news_id=29863&news_channel_id=131&channel_id=131.

EPA Seeks Stricter Rules to Curb Smog

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed a stricter standard for smog-causing pollutants that would bring substantial health benefits to millions of Americans while imposing large costs on industry and local governments. The standard would replace one set by the Bush administration in March 2008, which has been challenged in court by state officials and environmental advocates as too weak to adequately protect human health and the environment. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/08/science/earth/08smog.html?th&emc=th>.

Lead Damages Child Kidneys, Even Low Levels: Study

Tiny amounts of lead are common in the blood of U.S. teenagers and may be damaging their kidneys, U.S. researchers reported on Monday. They found evidence of early kidney damage in children with lead levels far below what is normally considered dangerous and said this could lead to kidney disease in later life. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2010/01/11/eline/links/20100111elin017.html>.

Shell Faces Shareholder Revolt Over Canadian Tar Sands Project

Shell chief executive Peter Voser will be forced to defend the company's controversial investment in Canada's tar sands at his first annual general meeting, after calls from shareholders that the project be put under further scrutiny. A coalition of institutional investors has forced a resolution onto the agenda calling for the Anglo-Dutch group's audit committee to undertake a special review of the risks attached to the carbon-heavy oil production at Athabasca in Alberta. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/jan/18/shell-shareholders-fury-tar-sands>.
