



Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment

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Welcome to the nineteenth 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:

Louise.Steeves@nb.lung.ca. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **April 9, 2010**.

GENERAL

CMP Tracking Tool Updated

This spreadsheet is designed to track the risk assessment management decisions pertaining to Challenge substances of the CMP, and the government's justifications for these; NGOs are welcome to add and utilize it according to their purposes. To view the spreadsheet, please visit: <http://www.cen-rce.org/CMP/indexcmp.html>.

Chemicals Management Plan Batch 7

The public has until May 5, 2010 to submit written comments on the final screening assessment reports and the proposed risk management approach documents to the Minister of the Environment and to the Minister of Health. Three of the 14 substances assessed in Batch 7 were proposed as harmful to human health. The final screening assessment reports and the proposed risk management approach documents for these three substances are available on the Chemical Substances website at: <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/en>.

Hazard Check Health Guide – Health Canada

The guide provides general advice to Canadians on simple actions that they can take to reduce exposure to a number of environmental health risks that may be present inside their homes. The guide is available on-line and in print format. To view the guide, please visit: www.HealthyCanadians.gc.ca/Hazardcheck.

Environmental Health Journal Available: Environmental Health Perspectives

Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP), coordinated by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is a monthly journal of peer-reviewed research and news on the impact of the environment on human health. To access the journal, please visit: <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/home.action>.

Healthy Schools Day: April 26

The purpose of the day is to foster improvements, celebrate successes, and create projects that make indoor environments of new and existing schools the best they can be. To read more about this event, please visit: www.casle.ca/healthyschoolsday.

REACH list of dangerous chemicals doubled

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has added 14 substances to the list of "very high concern" chemicals to undergo special health and safety scrutiny under the bloc's chemical regulation REACH. To read the full list of substances, please visit:

http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp.

ecoENERGY PLUS

This home incentive program was increased by \$80 million in the last federal budget, allowing an additional 60,000 Canadian homeowners to participate. Grants are available for high efficiency furnaces, central air conditioners, Energy Star-rated windows and doors, and insulation upgrades. Grants for renewable energy installations such as a solar hot water heating system and ground source heat pumps are also available. Ends 31 March, 2011. For more information on the program, please visit: <http://www.savehomeenergy.ca>.

Documentary Takes a Look at Chemical Exposures

Chemical explores the life cycle of everyday household cleaners and hygiene products by following a family trying to create a toxic free home. To view the trailer, please visit:

<http://chemicalnation.com/content/watch>.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Alternatives to BPA Containers Not Easy for U.S. Foodmakers to Find

Major U.S. foodmakers are quietly investigating how to rid their containers of Bisphenol A, a chemical under scrutiny by federal regulators concerned about links to a range of health problems, including reproductive disorders and cancer. But they are discovering how complicated it is to remove the chemical. It is a goal that is taking years to reach, costing millions and proving surprisingly elusive. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/22/AR2010022204830.html>.

U.S. Examining Possible Effects of Bisphenol A

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has launched 11 new animal studies to investigate the possible effects of bisphenol A or BPA. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61O62F20100225>.

Yale Study Details How and Why of BPA's Dangers

Exposing a female fetus to a chemical found in plastics causes permanent changes in a daughter's uterus that might result in cancer — and a research team led by a Yale doctor has figured out why. The findings reveal that BPA strips off a part of the DNA, which permanently alters the genetic structure. To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/03/09/news/new_haven/a1 -- bpa_0309.txt.

Derived from Flowers, But Not Benign: Pyrethroids Raise New Concerns

About 70 percent of people in the United States have been exposed to pyrethroids, with children facing the highest exposure, according to a [study](#) published this month. Although the human health threats are unknown, animal studies have found evidence of damage to neurological, immune and reproductive systems. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/pyrethroids-raise-concerns>.

Removing Lead Pipes Could Backfire

New research obtained by The Free Press shows that when sections of lead pipes are replaced, the lead that remains can corrode much faster than would a stand-alone lead pipe, the rust flaking into tap water. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2010/02/26/13047411.html>.

Studies Show Danger of Even Small Amounts of Lead in Children's Blood

A recent study out of Johns Hopkins Children's Center found that even small levels of lead exposure may be damaging to children's kidneys. The report, published January in the Archives of Internal Medicine, looked at the records of 769 healthy youth ages 12 to 20 with average blood lead levels of 1.5 micrograms per deciliter (well below the 10 microgram "threshold" of concern per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-lead-20100308,0,6907581.story>.

Study: Lead Poisoning Could Lurk in Spices

About 25% of the food items tested, including spices such as cardamom, fenugreek and chili powder, contained more than 1 microgram of lead per gram of product. About 65% of the ceremonial powders contained the same amount. Those levels are below the E.U.'s acceptable threshold of 2 to 3 mcg/g of lead, but the study's authors say that regardless of the amount, the presence of lead in these products should be a reason for concern, since they could potentially add to exposure from other sources of the neurotoxin in a child's environment. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1971906,00.html>.

Fish Oil Supplements May Bring PCB Compounds: Study

People who take certain brands of fish oil supplements, seeking benefits of Omega-3 fatty acids are also exposing themselves to unnecessarily high levels of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) compounds, newly released test results show. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.canada.com/health/Fish%20supplements%20bring%20compounds%20Study/2634004/story.html>.

Dramatic Decline of Male Births in Indigenous Communities Tied to Industrial Pollution

A strange reality exists in at least one indigenous community – babies that should be born boys are instead, born girls. Research in 2007 showing skewed birth ratios in the villages of northern Greenland exposed earlier studies that found indigenous mothers living in the northern most reaches of the Arctic Circle were giving birth to daughters. The studies linked the skewed sex ratios with human exposures to PCBs and other persistent organic chemicals. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/living/87141237.html>.

Childhood Poverty Can Alter Kids' Brains

Living in poverty can shape the neurobiology of a developing child "in powerful ways," affecting children's behaviour, health and how well they do later in life. US researchers found what they called "a biology of misfortune" among adults who were poor as children, in particular if they

lived in poverty before the age of five, the study presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) shows. To read the full article, please visit: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=117&art_id=nw20100222072444418C905438.

Arctic Glacial Dust May Affect Climate and Health in North America and Europe

Residents of the southern United States and the Caribbean have seen it many times during the summer months -- a whitish haze in the sky that seems to hang around for days. The resulting thin film of dust on their homes and cars actually is soil from the deserts of Africa, blown across the Atlantic Ocean. Now, there is new evidence that similar dust storms in the arctic, possibly caused by receding glaciers, may be making similar deposits in northern Europe and North America. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100219123517.htm>.

Climate Change May Extend Allergy Season: Study

Pollen seasons as well as the amount of pollen in the air progressively increased during a twenty-six year study in Italy, doctors told a meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology in New Orleans. To read the full article, please visit: <http://new.whtc.com/news/articles/2010/mar/01/climate-change-may-extend-allergy-season-study>.

Phthalates Predispose Mice to Allergies

Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) rubbed onto mouse skin changed the chemistry of the rodents' immune system and made them more prone to developing contact allergies, reports a new study published in the scientific journal Immunology. This is the first study to show how DBP modifies the mouse immune system to predispose it to developing a type of allergy known as contact hypersensitivity. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/phthalates-predispose-mice-to-allergic-reactions>.

Could Germs be Making You Fat?

Germs that make their home in the gut may help cause obesity and a range of health-threatening symptoms that go along with it. It could be that certain bacteria cause inflammation that can affect appetite as well as inflammatory bowel conditions like Crohn's disease and colitis, the researchers reported in the journal Science. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2010/03/04/eline/links/20100304elin028.html>.

The Top 10 Toxic Products You Don't Need

Here are ten toxic products, in no particular order, that you don't need. Be aware that different homes may have different products that are more toxic than these. This is just a basic list of some of the most commonly purchased products that are almost entirely unnecessary, but pose significant risks. To read the full article, please visit: http://healthychild.org/blog/comments/the_top_10_toxic_products_you_dont_need.

Road Salt is Poisoning Water Bodies, Study Finds

One of the most detailed investigations ever conducted in Canada into the fate of road salt has found that it is polluting groundwater and causing some streams during winter thaws to have salinity levels just under those found in the ocean. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/science/road-salt-is-poisoning-water-bodies-study-finds/article1490631>.

Research Shows Vitamin D Associated with Reduced Rate of Renal Cancer in Men

In the largest study of its kind, scientists found that vitamin D – produced by the skin when exposed to ultraviolet light – was associated with a reduced rate of renal cancer of up to 73% among men. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/08/kidney-cancer-outdoor-working-sunlight>.
