



Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment

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Welcome to the twenty-first 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 **June 11, 2010**.

CONFERENCES

The French environment and health NGO and HEAL member, Réseau Environnement Sante, coordinated a conference on hypersensitivity diseases and environmental causation in Paris on Wednesday 21st April. The one day conference sought to highlight how mechanisms of diagnosis and treatment of hypersensitivity diseases could be strengthened if environmental factors were taken into account. You can read more about the outcome of the consortium on the RES website: <http://www.reseau-environnement-sante.fr/> (submitted by CNHHE member André Fauteux).

GENERAL

Updated Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) Tracking Tool

This document 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. The tracking tool was created by Janelle Witzel from Environmental Defence. To access the file, please visit: [http://www.cnhhe-rcshe.ca/pdf/CMP+Tracking+Tool+\(21.04.10\).xls](http://www.cnhhe-rcshe.ca/pdf/CMP+Tracking+Tool+(21.04.10).xls).

Free Online Course: Outdoor Air Quality and Health and the Air Quality Health Index

UBC School of Environmental Health presents an on-demand, online course on outdoor air quality and health and the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI). This course is available in either official language at no cost, made possible through funding by Health Canada. Accreditation is available to physicians, health professionals and others. For more information, please visit: http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing_Education/entrypage.html.

Delphi's Climate Change Policy Update

To read Delphi's April policy update, please visit:

http://delphi.ca/documents/uploads/Climate_Change_Policy_Update_April_2010_final.pdf.

PubMed Central (PMC) Canada Launched

PMC Canada is the result of a partnership between the National Research Council's Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (NRC-CISTI), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). Canadians now have a freely accessible national digital repository of the latest peer-reviewed health and life sciences literature at their fingertips, including research resulting from CIHR funding. To access the site, please visit: <http://pubmedcentralcanada.ca>.

The Value of Biodiversity and its Impacts on Human Health

In the past two decades, the scientific community's understanding of ecology — the study of how ecosystems work and where each biological component of a system fits into the greater whole — has exploded. With that knowledge has come two key realizations; firstly, that we are losing worldwide biological diversity (biodiversity) at an alarming and unprecedented rate, and secondly, for humans to thrive or even survive in the future, we must preserve as much biodiversity as possible so that we do not limit our future options. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/docs-talk/2010/05/the-value-of-biodiversity-and-its-impacts-on-human-health>.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Lead Exposure May Delay Puberty in Boys

Boys with relatively elevated levels of lead in their blood may start puberty later than their peers with less lead exposure, a new study suggests. The findings, published in the journal Pediatrics, add to concerns about the potential health effects of even moderately elevated lead levels. To read the full article, please visit: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36229653/ns/health-kids_and_parenting.

BPA Exposure in the Womb Alters Key Mammary Gland Proteins at Puberty

A study with rats finds that exposure to low doses of BPA during development changes some of the proteins expressed by the mammary gland - including those that control cell proliferation and death - before and during puberty in ways consistent with cancer formation. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/prenatal-bpa-changes-mammary-gland-protein-expression>.

BPA and Genistein Together Affect Nervous System in Rat Embryos

Rat embryos exposed in the laboratory to two estrogen-like compounds had more severe and life-threatening effects on development than either chemical alone. In particular, malformations and defects in their central nervous systems – including the brain – were seen after exposure to mixtures of bisphenol A (BPA) and the phytoestrogen genistein. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/bpa-genistein-mix-alter-nervous-system-development>.

Another Plastics Ingredient Raises Safety Concerns

A largely ignored contaminant doesn't just resemble bisphenol A, the chemical found to leach out of hard plastic water bottles. It's BPA's fluorinated twin — on steroids. New laboratory studies in Japan indicate that the twin, called bisphenol AF, or BPAF, may be even more potent than BPA in altering the effects of steroid hormones such as estrogens in the body. To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.sciencenews.org/index/generic/activity/view/id/59113/title/Another_plastics_ingredient_raises_safety_concerns_/utm_source/twitterfeed/utm_medium/twitter.

FDA Says Studies on Triclosan, Used in Sanitizers and Soaps, Raise Concerns

The FDA and the Environmental Protection Agency say they are taking a fresh look at triclosan, which is so ubiquitous that is found in the urine of 75 percent of the population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/07/AR2010040704621.html>.

Survey and Health Assessment of the Exposure of 2 Year-Olds to Chemical Substances in Consumer Products

This report describes the results of the project, including a survey of the products as well as chemical analyses and risk assessments of a number of selected products that 2 year-old children come into contact with throughout the course of a day. To read the full report, please visit:

<http://www.cnhhe-rcshe.ca/pdf/Daenish+Survey+Children,+chemicals+in+Consumer+products.pdf>.

Heavy Metals, Poisons Dot N.L. Abitibi Sites

Environmental studies show a complex mix of fuel spills, heavy metals, poisons and cancer-causing chemicals in Newfoundland and Labrador sites formerly managed by newsprint company AbitibiBowater. Meanwhile, the Newfoundland and Labrador government moved Thursday to assure residents in at least four communities that there is no immediate risk to their health, while admitting that it is pushing the struggling newsprint giant to clean up the messes it left behind. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2010/05/13/abitibibowater-environment-toxic-513.html#ixzz0nudWELiH>.

Butter-Flavor Substitutes Also Raise Alarms

It turns out that some of the chemicals used in place of the additive, diacetyl, might be just as dangerous - if not more so. Preliminary studies suggest that one popular substitute, 2,3-pentanedione, causes the same tissue damage, say researchers at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2010/05/12/butter-flavor-substitutes-also-raise-alarms.html>.

Inhaled Pollutants May Inflamm More Than the Lungs

Scientists have known that air pollution can impair airways and blood vessels. The emerging surprise is what it might do to the brain. Increasingly, studies have been highlighting inflammation-provoking nanopollutants as a potential source of nerve cell damage. To read the

full article, please visit:

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/58906/title/Destination_brain.

Stronger Evidence Pollution Damages Heart: Report

The evidence is stronger than ever that pollution from industry, traffic and power generation causes strokes and heart attacks, and people should avoid breathing in smog, the American Heart Association said on Monday. Fine particulate matter from burning fossil fuels such as gasoline, coal and oil is the clearest offender, the group said. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/57968>.

Mercury Mystery

Forty years after grassy narrows First Nation's mercury-drenched river system was proclaimed off limits, a recently released report on the health fallout in the community north of Kenora has arrived at a more ominous conclusion. It's possible that even small amounts of mercury below Health Canada's guidelines are continuing to poison people and causing health problems. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.nowtoronto.com/news/story.cfm?content=175001>.

Phthalate, Antibiotic Levels Plummet After Five-Day Vegetarian Diet

Levels of hormone disrupting chemicals and antibiotics used in livestock were lower after the five-day vegetarian program. The pilot study suggests that people may be able reduce their exposure to potentially dangerous chemicals through dietary choices, such as limiting consumption of animal products like meats and dairy. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/phthalates-antibiotics-reduced-after-vegetarian-diet>.

Sun-Shy Mothers May Raise MS Risk in Babies: Study

Low vitamin D levels have long been linked to a higher risk of MS. Experts suspect an expectant mother's lack of exposure to sunlight - the main source of vitamin D - may affect the fetus's central nervous system or immune system, and predispose it to developing MS later in life. In the Australian study, researchers combed birth records of 1,524 MS patients born between 1920 and 1950, and found there were more of them born in the months of November and December. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2010/04/30/eline/links/20100430elin011.html>.

New Concerns About Radiation and Breast Cancer Raised in Study

Working with cultures of human breast cells, researchers discovered that radiation exposure can alter the environment surrounding the cells so that future cells are more likely to become cancerous. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100513143531.htm>.

President's Cancer Panel: Environmentally Caused Cancers are 'Grossly Underestimated' and 'Needlessly Devastate American Lives.'

The 240-page [report](#) by the President's Cancer Panel is the first to focus on environmental causes of cancer. The panel, created by an act of Congress in 1971, is charged with monitoring the multi-billion-dollar National Cancer Program and reports directly to the President every year. To

read the full article, please visit: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/presidents-cancer-panel>.

EPA Issues Report on U.S. Climate Change Indicators

Heat waves, storms, sea levels, glaciers, and wildlife migrations are just a few of the environmental indicators that show measurable signs of climate change. The EPA report, Climate Change Indicators in the United States, looks at 24 key indicators that show how climate change impacts the health and environment of the nation's citizens. To read the full report, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/indicators.html>.