



Bulletin of the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment

(Le Français suit)

Number 22

July 2010

Welcome to the twenty-second 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 **July 9, 2010**.

CONFERENCES

2010 RCEN Conference

The 2010 RCEN Conference will take place in Montreal, from September 17-19. The theme of the Sunday conference is Conserving Biodiversity Pays: The Values of Ecosystem Services. Hear inspiring speakers -- ENGOs, government, industry, First Nations and youth -- discuss how protecting biodiversity pays, now and for the future. To register, please visit: <http://www.cen-rce.org/AGA/2010/registration.html>.

Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment to Hold 1st National Conference

The CNHE Executive is proud to announce its FIRST national conference, to be held in conjunction with the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, the Canadian Men in Nursing Group, and the Diabetes Nursing Interest Group of the RNAO. The conference is set for October 25-27, 2010 at the Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel & Suites in Toronto, ON. The conference link, including the conference poster, call for abstracts and registration information is available here: <http://anac.on.ca/conferences.php>.

GENERAL

Callout: NGO Action on Climate Change Adaptation in the Health Sector in Canada

A team at McGill University is conducting research on adaptations specifically to minimize health vulnerabilities and pose the following general questions: who are adapting, how are they doing it and what is limiting potential action? One component of our project is to assess actions taken by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that reduce negative health effects of climate change. Such actions do not have to be a response to climate change explicitly. For example, some NGOs promote urban green roofs, which reduce the urban heat island effect, and thus

attenuate the health effects of heat waves. NGOs that promote alternative transportation to cars also contribute to improved air quality and reduced respiratory problems.

We are seeking NGOs that are:

- Operating in Canada
- Addressing one or more of the following climate-related health issues (even somewhat indirectly as described above): Extreme temperature, Extreme weather events, Contamination of food / water, Infectious disease, Air quality, Ultraviolet radiation

If the above apply to your organization, we would love to hear from you. Please contact carolyn.poutiainen@mail.mcgill.ca with a brief description of your activities and contact information (phone number, email address, website). We will follow up with a brief questionnaire if needed. For more information on climate change and health, please refer to <http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/climat/eval/index-eng.php>.

Publication of the Proposed Renewal of the Federal Agenda for the Reduction of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from Consumer and Commercial Products

Environment Canada has published a discussion paper on the proposed renewal of the Federal Agenda for the Reduction of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from Consumer and Commercial Products. The discussion paper is posted on Environment Canada's VOCs in Consumer and Commercial Products web site at the following address: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cov-voc/default.asp?lang=En&n=424DFC9B-1>. Stakeholders are invited to forward their comments on the proposed renewal of the VOC Federal Agenda during a 30-day public consultation period, running now until July 11, 2010. If you have any questions regarding the Federal Agenda for the Reduction of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from Consumer and Commercial Products, please do not hesitate to contact Guy Gagné at guy.gagne@ec.gc.ca or at 819-994-5787.

CMP Batch 10

Batch 10 of the Chemicals Management Plan's Challenge initiative were published in the *Canada Gazette* on Saturday, June 26, 2010. The public has until August 25, 2010 to submit written comments on the draft screening assessment reports and the risk management scope documents to the Minister of the Environment and to the Minister of Health. The draft screening assessment reports and the risk management scope document for the substance that is proposed as harmful to health and the environment is available on the Chemical Substances Web site at: <http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/batch-lot-10/index-eng.php>

Health Canada Website Updates

Please take note of the following updates to the HC website.

Food Safety Tips for Fiddleheads:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/kitchen-cuisine/fiddlehead-fougere-eng.php>,

Furan: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/chem-chim/food-aliment/furan/index-eng.php>,

Glycoalkaloids in Foods: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/securit/2010-glycoalkaloids-glycoalcaloides/index-eng.php>.

International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health Scope to Include Consumer Health

Beginning in 2011, the International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health is expanding its scope to include consumer health, a rubric defined to include the aspects of human disease and injury that are determined or influenced by exposure to consumer goods and their

components, including pharmaceuticals, food additives, and other purchased products. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.healthskepticism.org/global/announcements/entry/ijoescope>.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Research Links Pesticides With ADHD In Children

A new analysis of U.S. health data links children's attention-deficit disorder with exposure to common pesticides used on fruits and vegetables. While the study couldn't prove that pesticides used in agriculture contribute to childhood learning problems, experts said the research is persuasive. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://cbs2chicago.com/wireapnewsil/Study.suggests.pesticides.2.1697363.html>.

Prenatal PAHs Linked to Lower Cognition at Age Five

Intellectual delays in kindergarten-aged kids may result from prebirth exposures to common air pollutants called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), according to a study of Polish children. The researchers report that 5-year-old children whose mothers had higher exposures to PAHs when they were pregnant performed worse on tests that measured cognitive abilities, lowering their IQ by more than three points. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/prenatal-pahs-linked-to-lower-cognition-at-age-five>.

Study Finds No Link Between Phone Masts and Childhood Cancers

The first study to examine the effects of the 81,000 phone masts across Britain on mothers-to-be has found no link with early childhood cancers such as leukaemia, which is thought to be triggered in the womb, and brain tumours. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/study-finds-no-link-between-phone-masts-and-childhood-cancers-2007843.html>.

NIEHS Director Reacts to Study of Pregnant Women, Urges More Investigation of Flame Retardants

The study published Monday reported that high levels of brominated flame retardants can alter pregnant women's thyroid hormones, which are critical to a baby's growth and brain development. It is the first human research showing a link between the ubiquitous chemicals and altered levels of the hormones in pregnant women. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/niehs-director-reacts-flame-retardant-study>.

Preservatives Under Fire

Some personal care companies have reformulated so they can emblazon labels with "paraben-free," "formaldehyde-free," or even "preservative-free" claims. And cosmetic ingredient companies are responding with systems that avoid suspect preservatives. To read the full article, please visit: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/88/8820cover.html>.

A New Source of Dioxins: Clean Hands

Manufacturers have been adding the germ fighter triclosan to soaps, hand washes, and a range of other products for years. But here's a dirty little secret: Once it washes down the drain, that triclosan can spawn dioxins. To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/59333/title/A_new_source_of_dioxins_Clean_hands.

New Study: North Americans Routinely Exposed to Hidden Toxic Chemical BPA from Food Cans

Eating common canned foods is exposing North Americans to levels of bisphenol A (BPA) equal to levels shown to cause health problems in laboratory animals, according to a new study released today by Environmental Defence Canada and The National Workgroup for Safe Markets. To read the full article, please visit:

<http://environmentaldefence.ca/pressroom/viewnews.php?id=789>.

Free Range Eggs Contain a Little Something Extra: Pollutants

Here's some disconcerting news for health-conscious eaters who favor eggs from free-range hens: A Taiwanese study found that the eggs contain much higher levels of industrial pollutants than eggs laid by caged hens. To read the full article, please visit:

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/06/free-range-eggs-contaminated-with-dioxins.html.

Some Skin Whitening Creams Contain Toxic Mercury, Testing Finds

Some creams promising to lighten skin, eliminate age spots and zap freckles contain high levels of mercury, a toxic metal that can cause severe health problems, a Tribune investigation has found. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-mercury-skin-creams-20100518,0,7324086,full.story>.

Climate Health Costs: Bug-Borne Ills, Killer Heat

Tree-munching beetles, malaria-carrying mosquitoes and deer ticks that spread Lyme disease are three living signs that climate change is likely to exact a heavy toll on human health. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE54Q64820090528>.

Malaria Spikes with Deforestation

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon can lead to malaria epidemics years later, according to a new study from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The findings are some of the most detailed yet to link environmental changes with the spread of disease. To read the full article, please visit: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20100620/LIVING01/10061972>.