

June 2018



CNHHE News



This month, we would like to draw your attention to a petition launched by a team of three interns at the House of Commons. According to their research, plastic takeout containers contribute up to 25,000 tonnes to Canadian landfills annually. Therefore, they have launched a parliamentary petition for legislation to require take-out packaging to be sustainable. Please take a moment to [sign their petition](#)

You can also find more information below.

If you have not already done so, we would appreciate it if you could fill out our brief, online survey found at <https://bit.ly/2tOk9yC>. So far it tells us that network members are most interested in certain organic flame retardants, parabens, and zinc, all of which are currently being assessed by the CMP. If you have special knowledge of these substances, or know of someone who does, please let us know, as the rest of us could learn from you!

Many thanks to all who have submitted comments about documents open on various substances on our behalf this April, May, and June. This includes Carroll Chubb, PhD, of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Kevin McCullum, PhD, of the University of Regina, Emily Hawken, MD, PhD, Ashleigh Forsyth, MSc, and Pamela Welbourn, PhD, all of Queens University; and Mark Gibson, PhD, of Dalhousie University.

This spring, we were very pleased to be able to send Fe de Leon of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Cassie Barker of **Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN)**, and Jennifer Beeman of Breast Cancer Action Quebec (BCAQ) as delegates to the CEPA Consultations in April in Ottawa. Thanks go to Fe, for organizing a virtual debriefing session, and to Cassie and

Jennifer for their reports, which can be found [here](#) and [here](#). (en anglais seulement)

Sonja Janousek of the Canadian Coalition of Green Health Care and Cassie Barker along with the **NBLA's** Project Manager and Assistant Manager represented the CNHHE at the CMP Multi-Stakeholder Consultation in May, where a highlight was the a presentation and display of work done by Government of Canada research scientists. **Sonja's** report can be found [here](#).

All four were also able to observe the Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) meetings, where, for the first time the Project Manager felt as if environmental health was the primary concern. A team of SAC members, led by Anne Rochon-Ford, had assembled a diverse panel representing those who are more vulnerable to the effects of toxic exposures. The lived experiences and points of view of the panel members spoke volumes to all present.

A presentation by Dr. Bruce Lanphear of Simon Fraser University on the effects of environmental toxins on human health and including clips of his educational videos, rounded out this very interesting day and a half.

Savour summer!

Liz

[Chemicals Management Plan \(CMP\) News:](#)

Ecological risk classification of inorganic substances

- [The Science Approach Document for the Ecological Risk Classification of Inorganic Substances](#) was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on July 11, 2018.

Macrocyclic Lactones and Ketones, Ionones and Cyclohexanone Group

- [The Draft Screening Assessment for Macrocyclic Lactones and Ketones, Ionones and Cyclohexanone Group](#) was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on July 18, 2018.

Dinoseb

- [The Draft Screening Assessment and Risk Management Scope for Dinoseb](#) were published for a 60-day public comment period ending on August 1, 2018.

Aspergillus oryzae

- [An Order amending the Domestic Substances List to apply the Significant New Activity Provisions of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 to Aspergillus oryzae strain ATCC 11866 \(Priority A micro-organism\)](#) was published.

Pseudomonas putida

- [An Order amending the Domestic Substances List to apply the Significant New Activity Provisions of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 to Pseudomonas putida strains ATCC 12633, ATCC 31483, ATCC 31800 and ATCC 700369 \(Priority B micro-organisms\)](#) was published.

Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines

- [The Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines for Bisphenol A \(BPA\), Hexavalent Chromium and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate \(PFOS\)](#) were published.

The Chemicals Management Plan Science Committee

- [The Chemicals Management Plan Science Committee First Term Report and the Terms of Reference for the Second Term](#) have been published.

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Other Opportunities and Information:

[E-1700 \(Environmental Pollution\)](#)

42nd Parliament

Initiated by Rimmy Jhaji from Brampton, Ontario, on June 8, 2018, at 10:40 a.m. (EDT)

The Petition is open for signature until October 6, 2018, at 10:40 a.m. (EDT)

PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Whereas:

- Plastic waste is an immense threat to our environment and wildlife, and costs our economy tens of millions of dollars;
- Takeout food containers add 25,000 tonnes to landfills annually (Metro Vancouver);
- While reusable takeout containers are currently the most sustainable takeout packaging option, implementing them requires the reorganization of restaurant infrastructure (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation). Thus, the most feasible strategy to protect the environment is to focus on

implementing compostable or bioplastic takeout containers which require less restructuring;

- Biodegradable plastics can help contribute to sustainability and reduction in the environmental impact associated with the disposal of oil-based polymers;
- 100% Certified Compostable containers are both recyclable (if cleaned), and compostable; and
- There are a plethora of practical, cost-efficient ways for businesses to transition to sustainable takeout packaging.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to require food retailers to implement compostable and/or biodegradable plastic and/or bioplastic food storage/takeout containers in order to increase environmental stability and decrease plastic pollution.

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

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[EcoWatch](#)

[First Glyphosate Trial, of Thousands, Begins as Plaintiff Fights for His Life](#)

The pesticide producing company Monsanto (now named Bayer) faces thousands of court cases being brought against them by cancer sufferers who claim their controversial, weed killing product, RoundUp, is the cause for their diagnosis with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Mr. Dewayne Johnson is the first plaintiff to face the company in court. Mr. Johnson used the RoundUp product as part of his work in the pest management field. He has been granted an expedited trial as his doctors say he is nearing death.

The trial will hinge on whether RoundUp's key ingredient, glyphosate, causes cancer and whether Monsanto failed to accurately warn customers.

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[Équiterre](#)

[New Report: Oil Pipeline Safety Failures in Canada](#)

Équiterre has published an alarming new report on pipeline incidents, accidents and spills, which are on the rise in Canada. In Quebec, 55% of pipeline incidents since 2008 occurred in 2017 alone!

“The National Energy Board is failing to protect Canadians and the environment from pipeline incidents and spills,” says Steven Guilbeault, Senior Director of Équiterre.

A worrisome statement, especially considering the federal government’s recent significant purchase of the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

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[Nature Canada](#)

[Sign to Ban Neonics](#)

“Neonics” are a type of insecticide used on farms that science shows are very harmful to the health of birds and bees. Ingestion of just small amounts can lead to reproduction and navigation problems in birds and bees and even cause death.

France has banned the use of neonics and other European countries are following suit. There are safer alternatives.

The Canadian government is in the process of reviewing neonics but so far has only proposed half measures that would allow the dangerous insecticide to continue being used. That’s not acceptable for our declining bird and bee populations.

Use your voice to help ban neonics. Send a message to the Minister of Health asking neonics be banned entirely.

[Write your message here, today!](#)

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[Ecojustice](#)

[Victory! Strengthened Enviro Law Bills Pass Third Reading](#)

Thanks to you, we’re on our way to having strong, enforceable environmental laws that better protect people and the planet.

The Ecojustice team spent the spring working with Canada's Environmental Community to prepare expert submissions and meet with lawmakers to advocate for critical improvements to the newly introduced environmental bills: Bill C-69 and Bill C-68.

And you played big role in securing urgent, last-minute improvements to the bills. Supporters sent 3544 messages and made more than 100 phone calls to their MPs, urging them to fix our environmental laws.

We're proud to report that strengthened versions of both bills have now completed their third reading in the House of Commons. Notable improvements you helped secure include adding a new emphasis on meaningful public participation and ensuring that the water flows fish depend on to survive will get the legal protection they need.

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[Asthma Canada](#)

[Beat the Heat: 9 Tips for Managing Your Asthma in the Summer](#)

There's beautiful weather, and then there's melt your ice cream, instant sunburn kind of weather. Changes in temperature like heat waves are known to trigger asthma symptoms in some people.

Knowing how to manage your asthma in these conditions will help you avoid asthma symptoms and enjoy even the hottest summer days.

Read this great article from Asthma Canada for tips that will help you get through even the worst summer scorchers!

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[Science Advances](#)

[The Chinese Import Ban and its Impact on Global Plastic Waste Trade](#)

Amy L. Brooks, Shunli Wang and Jenna R. Jambeck

College of Engineering, New Materials Institute, University of Georgia, Riverbend Research Lab South, 220 Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602, USA.

Abstract: The rapid growth of the use and disposal of plastic materials has proved to be a challenge for solid waste management systems with impacts on our environment and ocean. While recycling and the circular economy have been touted as potential solutions, upward of half of the plastic waste intended for recycling has been exported to hundreds of countries around the world. China, which has imported a cumulative 45% of plastic waste since 1992, recently implemented a new policy banning the importation of most plastic waste, begging the question of where the plastic waste will go now. We use commodity trade data for mass and value, region, and income level to illustrate that higher-income countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation have been exporting plastic waste (70% in 2016) to lower-income countries in the East Asia and Pacific for decades. An estimated 111 million metric tons of plastic waste will be displaced with the new Chinese policy by 2030. As 89% of historical exports consist of polymer groups often used in single-use plastic food packaging (polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyethylene terephthalate), bold global ideas and actions for reducing quantities of nonrecyclable materials, redesigning products, and funding domestic plastic waste management are needed.

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The Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment (CNHHE) is concerned with broad human health-related environmental issues relating to air, water, soil, food, climate- change and consumer products.

Membership is open to non-governmental, research, and healthcare professionals, government policy-makers and individuals who are interested in the connections between human health and environmental exposures.

A primary focus of the network is to educate about and engage members in the [Chemicals Management Program \(CMP\)](#) of [Health Canada](#) and [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

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