

September 2017



## CNHHE News

There are certainly many opportunities available right now to keep us all busy contributing to the reduction in the number of toxins to which humans and our natural support system can be exposed in modern life.

To increase the number of Canadians putting their knowledge and interest to work on this endeavour, we have separately sent researchers and NGO members a recruitment e-mail to pass on to budding research scientists and environmental health advocates. We would very much appreciate it if you would pass it along.

At present, regulations are being developed to reduce the amount of formaldehyde in composite building products. The CNHHE was able to send Sheila Cole, of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network to the Face-to-face workshop presented by the CMP on the draft regulations. Several CNHHE members also participated by WebEx. Read [Sheila's report](#) on the meeting.

Again, we are very grateful to Meg Sears and Sandra Madray for collaborating on comments on behalf of Prevent Cancer Now and Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba to the CMP regarding the proposed regulatory approach to reduce emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products.

On the topic of Formaldehyde, check out the heartening [CBC interview](#) of some inventive Mount Allison University students who have developed a method to use potato peelings as a binding agent in composite wood products. They have partnered with McCain's as a source of peelings!

Substances whose draft documents are open for comment include [Chlorhexidine and its salts \(until October 18\)](#), [Hydrogen Sulfide \(H<sub>2</sub>S\)](#), [Sodium Sulfide \(Na \(SH\)\)](#), and [Sodium Sulfide \(Na<sub>2</sub>S\) \(until November 8\)](#), and [Acrylates and Methacrylates](#) (until November 22)

If you did not have an opportunity to comment on the rollout of the [5G high-capacity wireless technology for data transfer](#), you can reply to the comments received by the Industry Canada until October 20. [Canadians for Safe Technology \(C4ST\)](#) recommends a moratorium on this technology until its safety has been thoroughly examined.

There are two important new sources of information that have been released by the Government of Canada: The [\*Fourth Report on Human Biomonitoring of Environmental Chemicals in Canada\*](#), and [summaries of data gathered under the second phase of the CMP that were recently published for seven groups of priority substances](#).

Below, you can check out other news and participate in campaigns initiated by several NGOs. Please remember to pass on the information about the [EduTox video competition](#) to the teachers and youth in your network!

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

#### [Chlorhexidine and its Salts](#)

The Updated Draft Screening Assessment and Risk Management Scope Document for Chlorhexidine and its Salts were published for a [60-day public comment period](#) ending on October 18, 2017.

#### [Hydrogen Sulfide \(H<sub>2</sub>S\), Sodium Sulfide \(Na \(SH\)\) and Sodium Sulfide \(Na<sub>2</sub>S\)](#)

The Draft Screening Assessment for Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), Sodium Sulfide (Na (SH)) and Sodium Sulfide (Na<sub>2</sub>S) was published. This publication has a [60-day public comment period](#) ending on November 8, 2017.

#### [Acrylates and Methacrylates Group:](#)

The Draft Screening Assessment for the Acrylates and Methacrylates Group was published for a [60-day public comment period](#) ending on November 22, 2017.

#### [The Chemicals Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Council](#)

The Chemicals Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Council summary report for the May 2017 meeting was published.

#### [Asphalt and Oxidized Asphalt and Distillate Aromatic Extracts](#)

The Final Screening Assessments for Asphalt and Oxidized Asphalt and Distillate Aromatic Extracts were published.

#### [Micro-organisms:](#)

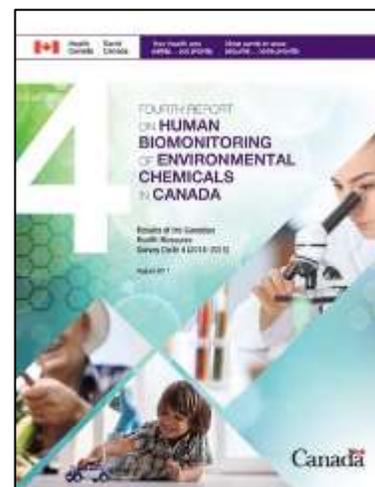
A mandatory notice under section 71 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 with respect to certain micro-organisms was published.

## [Notices published under Section 71 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999](#)

Information received in response to notices published in the Canada Gazette under section 71 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 was published.

### [\*Fourth Report on Human Biomonitoring of Environmental Chemicals in Canada, results of Canadian Health Measures Survey Cycle 4 \(2014-2015\)\*](#)

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Health Canada released its *Fourth Report on Human Biomonitoring of Environmental Chemicals in Canada*. This technical report provides biomonitoring results from the fourth cycle (2014-2015) of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS). It presents a comprehensive set of data on environmental chemical exposure in the Canadian population.



These data tables present national data on concentrations of environmental chemicals in Canadians. These data were collected as part of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS), an ongoing national direct health measures survey. Statistics Canada, in partnership with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada, launched the CHMS in 2007 to collect health and wellness data and biological specimens on a nationally representative sample of Canadians. Biological specimens were analyzed for indicators of health status, chronic and infectious diseases, nutritional status, and environmental chemicals.

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## [Government of Canada's Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Regulations Respecting Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products](#)

View the workshop presentation, from September 6, 2017, [here](#).

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## [Announcement of Open data publications available within the Open Government Portal](#)

We are pleased to announce that new resources are now available on the Open Government Portal. These are made available under the Government of Canada's [Chemicals Management Plan \(CMP\)](#).

Summaries of data gathered under the second phase of the CMP were recently published for the following seven groups of priority substances:

- 1) [Organic Flame Retardants](#)

- 2) [Aromatic Azo- and Benzidine-based Substances](#)
- 3) [Cobalt Containing Substances](#)
- 4) [Methylenediphenyl Diisocyanate and Diamine \(MDI/MDA\) and Phenol, Methyl-Substances](#)
- 5) [Phthalate Substances](#)
- 6) [Substituted Diphenylamine Substances](#)
- 7) [Selenium-Containing Substances](#)

The CMP2 summaries highlight the information that has been collected under section 71 of CEPA and include all non-confidential data.

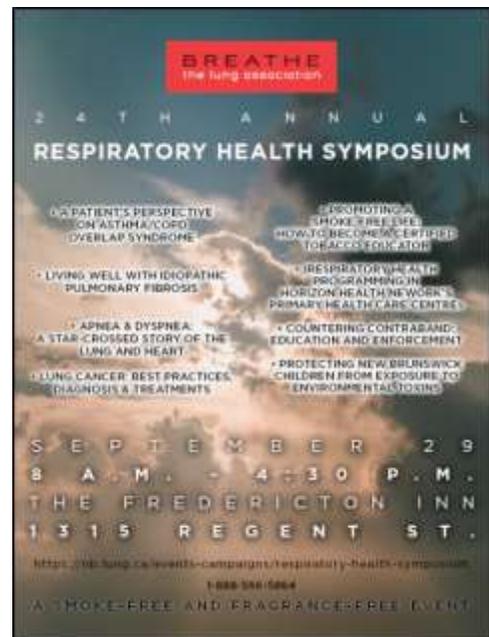
Also available is the [Significant New Activity Publications under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999](#). This resource includes information on all significant new activity (SNAC) orders and notices published under the authority of CEPA. The SNAC provisions of CEPA may be applied to a substance or living organism when Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada suspect that a significant new activity in relation to the substance or living organism may pose new or increased risks to the environment or to human health.

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Other Opportunities:

[New Brunswick Lung Association:](#)

The New Brunswick Lung Association's 24th Annual Respiratory Health Symposium: takes place in Fredericton, NB on September 29th, 2017, from 8:00AM - 4:30PM. View the [agenda](#) here!



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## [New Brunswick Environmental Network \(NBEN\):](#)

### [Eco-Confluence - October 28, 2017 - Fredericton:](#)

- The Eco-Confluence will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2017, 8:00am - 5:00pm, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.
- Help shape the agenda - [Tell us](#) about the pressing issues, roadblocks, and concerns in your environmental work.
- Nominate your hero - Which environmental group or individual deserves one of the [NBEN's awards](#) this year?
- Get involved - Seeking dedicated folks who believe in the [NBEN's mission](#) to join our board!

## [Pembina Institute:](#)

Time for Canada to lead the way to ultra energy-efficient buildings.

Read the [Letter to Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna](#).

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## [Canadians For Safe Technology](#)

[5G](#) is the upcoming high-capacity wireless technology for exponentially more data transfer, and the Canadian government is asking for your input on its rollout. 5G will support on-demand immersive entertainment, the Internet of Things (IoT), self-driving cars and data streaming to your cell phone and other wireless devices. With dense infrastructure, we will all experience substantial exposure to its radiofrequency radiation. Health consequences may be substantial as well. C4ST thinks that we should look before making this leap.

C4ST is recommending a moratorium on the rollout of 5G until the science and scientific gaps have been fully examined, and there is a thorough understanding of the health consequences of this new and untested technology, that will be added to the recent surge of exposure to 3G and 4G wireless radiation from today's myriad of devices.

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## [Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Units](#)

### [Mold in the Home and School](#)

This fact sheet, published in May 2017, provides information for parents, families, and school personnel regarding mold in the home and school. It describes the potential exposures to children, health effects, testing, and recommendations for reducing exposure in the home or at school. Download the factsheet [here](#).

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### [EduTOX:](#)

The EduTOX Video Challenge is a national contest for youth aged 14-22 beginning September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. [EduTOX](#) is all about raising awareness about how we can reduce health impacts from exposure to harmful toxins or adapt to climate change. To enter, make a 1-2 minute video that motivates positive action on toxins or climate change. There will be a total of 8 winners (4 French, 4 English), who will each receive fantastic prizes. Go to [www.edutox.ca](http://www.edutox.ca) for contest details. Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/edutox](http://www.facebook.com/edutox)) and Twitter @EduTOXvideo for tips and updates!

Some resources in French and English that may be useful:

- Website: The new EduTOX website is now live and contains answers to any questions you may have: [www.edutox.ca](http://www.edutox.ca).
- 'How-to' video: this video provides instructional guidance for participants and emphasizes scientific literacy. It can be viewed on the "[How-To](#)" page of the website.
- EduTOX promotional video (1 min) is available on the "[About](#)" page of the website.
- Classroom presentation: this short downloadable presentation (available on the [Getting Started](#) page of our website) is intended for use in the classroom by teachers and professors who may wish to include EduTOX as an assignment or extracurricular activity. It includes information (+ teacher's notes) about health impacts associated with toxins and climate change and actions we can take to help limit these impacts. It also emphasizes the importance of scientific literacy and links students to other educational resources.

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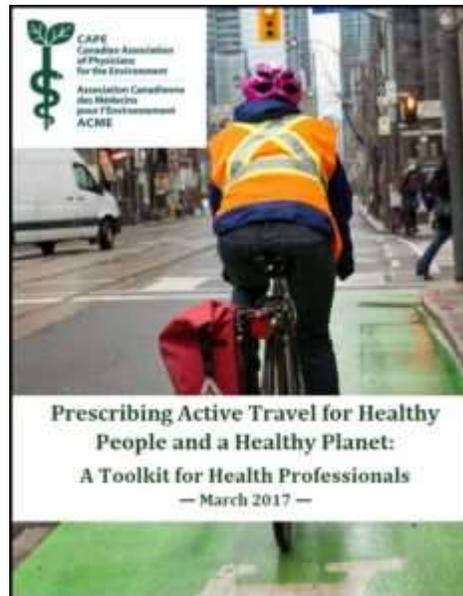
## [Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment:](#)

### [Active Travel Toolkit](#)

Walking, cycling, and taking public transportation are great ways to fit physical activity into a busy schedule. CAPE's new toolkit—

### [Prescribing Active Travel for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet: A Toolkit for Health](#)

[Professionals](#)—will help health professionals become advocates of active transportation and transit with their patients and in their communities.



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## [Environmental Defence:](#)

### [Ask Canada to Improve Toxic Chemical Regulation](#)

Every day, Canadians are exposed to many chemicals suspected of having harmful impacts on human health. [Our reports](#) show that Canadians are being exposed to a slew of chemicals in consumer products, some of which are linked to endocrine (hormone) disruption and cancer. Health Canada's most recent data shows that 9 out of 10 Canadians are still exposed to BPA.

We need to see strong action from the federal government to get toxic chemicals out of products. For too long, harmful chemicals like Triclosan and BPA have been allowed in consumer products despite growing scientific evidence demonstrating their harmful effects on human health and the environment. Our main toxics law, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999 (CEPA), hasn't been updated for almost two decades. The ministers of health and environment will be making a decision whether to act on toxics, and we need your help to let them know that they should not delay strengthening CEPA any longer.

Please send a [letter](#) to the Honourable [Ginette Petitpas Taylor](#), Minister of Health, and the Honourable [Catherine McKenna](#), Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, asking for stronger protections from toxic chemicals for all.

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## [ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability:](#)

The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference will take place in Edmonton, Canada 5-7 March 2018. The call for proposals and contributions on “fostering new scientific knowledge for cities based on science, practice and policy” opens 1 September 2017.

Sound and robust scientific knowledge is crucial to helping cities tackle climate change and advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference aims to develop a new global research agenda for cities and climate change.

By bringing together research and experience on cities and climate change from academics, practitioners, policymakers and community stakeholders, the conference will consolidate existing knowledge and help identify gaps in the field. By connecting these stakeholders, the conference will help inspire much needed further research.

Partner organizations to the Cities and Climate Change Science Conference are calling for proposals for 90-minute sessions as well as abstracts for oral session contributions and posters. All submissions will be assessed by the Scientific Steering Committee based on the conference objectives. The deadline for submissions is 6 October 2017.

The conference is part of the International Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) focus on cities. The IPCC has committed to a special report on cities and climate change, and the research presented at and inspired by the conference will contribute to the IPCC’s assessment.

The conference will focus on four themes:

- Cities and climate change – imperative for action
- Urban emissions, impacts and vulnerabilities – science and practice of cities
- Solutions for the transition to low carbon and climate resilient cities – science and practice for cities
- Enabling transformative climate action in cities – advancing science and advancing cities.

Proposals for both sessions and abstracts can be submitted on the [CitiesIPCC Conference website](#) beginning 1 September 2017. Questions can be addressed to: [info@citiesipcc.org](mailto:info@citiesipcc.org)

Join the conversation on social media with #CitiesIPCC.

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## [Manitoba Eco-Network](#)

### [Wondering how to maintain your lawn without cosmetic pesticides? We can help.](#)

We offer a variety of Do-It-Yourself Workshops, a lending library of lawn tools, and facilitating of hands-on sessions for small groups.

#### LAWN LIBRARY

Borrow a lawn care tool from our lending library to test out on your yard – view our inventory online at [Lawn Library Tools](#). We also have many books on organic lawn care, weeds, and gardening available for borrowing.

#### ORGANIC LAWN CARE PARTY

Host a party with friends or neighbours to practice organic lawn principles in a fun hands-on session. Try out the tools, make natural pesticides, or find out how to use your reel mower and sharpen your mower blades.

Since 2001, the Manitoba Eco-Network has offered informative workshops on Organic Lawn Care, as well as Reel Mower Sharpening Clinics, throughout the spring and summer months in Winnipeg and many other Manitoba communities. Workshop attendees have the chance to learn new techniques to care their lawn, which organic fertilizers to use, how to sharpen their mower blades, and the best ways to grow a beautiful, sustainable and long-lasting lawn.

Email [organiclawn@mbeconetwork.org](mailto:organiclawn@mbeconetwork.org) for more information, or to book a workshop in your workplace, organization, or community this summer.

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## [CAREX Canada](#)

We have developed tools to help users explore the data used for our estimates and indicators, and to facilitate access to a wide range of spatial data about known and suspected carcinogens in outdoor environments.

- [eRISK](#) is a set of tools developed by our environmental exposures team that allow users to explore various exposure scenarios. Users can:
  - compare the lifetime excess cancer risk (LECR) associated with various environmental exposures, and
  - use local data to see how the risk indicators might differ from the national levels.
- [eWORK](#) is a set of tools developed by our occupational exposures team that allow users to conduct custom queries of the CAREX results database. Two versions of eWORK are available: eWORK Excel and [eWORK Online](#).

eWORK Excel is a Microsoft Excel-based tool capable of handling complex filters and queries. It is available by request. Please email us at [info@carexcanada.ca](mailto:info@carexcanada.ca) if you're interested in obtaining a copy.

eWORK Online is for users who prefer quick, accessible, yet high quality statistics on occupational exposures to various carcinogens. This tool is available on [our website](#).

- [The Emissions Mapping Project](#) provides a wide range of files that can be easily downloaded and displayed with Google Earth, and allows you to:
  - see how watersheds, provinces, health regions and major cities rank according to total toxicity of emissions to air,
  - see how different sources contribute to the rankings, and
  - see information on sources and levels of known and suspected carcinogens in outdoor environments.

We have also developed tutorials to help you use Google Earth and our files, and a manual showing you how to create your own Google Earth files using simple spreadsheets. Visit the [Emissions Mapping Project website](#) to get started.

The Emissions Mapping Project was developed with additional funding from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

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[The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health \(NCCAHA\)](#) is a national Aboriginal organization established in 2005 by the Government of Canada and funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis public health renewal and health equity through knowledge translation and exchange. The NCCAHA is hosted by the University of Northern BC (UNBC) in Prince George, BC. [Learn more.](#)

[Resources Booklet: Spring - Summer 2017](#)

Publication Date: 2017-05-12

This resource booklet provides an overview of the activities, mandate and publications of the NCCAHA. It has been designed as a quick glance at the many knowledge resources, including fact sheets, reports, DVDs, reviews, and social media links, available on the NCCAHA web site within the four main areas of our work.

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## [Wolf Awareness:](#)

Alberta's use of the highly controversial poisons Strychnine, Compound 1080 and Sodium Cyanide cause extreme and prolonged suffering to hundreds of wild canids each year as well as many non-target species, including endangered species, domestic and companion animals. Help us put an end to this.

Alberta is currently the only province or territory in Canada that is using all of these indiscriminate and harmful poisons. Saskatchewan also has permits for use of strychnine and 1080.

Strychnine is currently undergoing re-evaluation as an allowable pesticide in Canada through the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency, which is a sector of Health Canada. Consultation and a proposed decision is scheduled for early 2018, meaning that YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED TODAY during this window for change! Public input is necessary to show that Canadian's won't stand for toxins that torture wildlife, decrease biodiversity, and pose a serious threat to the safety of people and pets.

Sodium cyanide and Compound 1080 are to be re-evaluated in the early 2020's, but we believe that all three convulsant-causing pesticides must be re-evaluated immediately with a decision to outlaw these harmful substances. In addition, [Alberta's provincial 5-year use-permit for strychnine expires December 31, 2017](#), meaning that Strychnine use is currently up for renewal in Alberta, where it is registered for use as a "wolf, coyote & black bear pesticide", and also available to farmers in 2% liquid form as a rodenticide. This presents another opportunity to engage at a meaningful time. Despite not being legally allowed for use in other provinces, as long as they remain available in Canada these poisons will continue to kill wild and domestic animals across the country, such as these [recent strychnine deaths in British Columbia](#).

*It's time to end the use of these poisons across Canada once and for all.*

Wolf Awareness believes a national ban on Compound 1080, Strychnine, and M-44 Cyanide Devices is warranted for the following 5 critical reasons:

1. These chemicals are a cruel method of killing wildlife
2. These poisons are a threat to species at risk and biodiversity
3. These poisons are unnecessary and ineffective. Better alternatives exist.
4. They pose a serious threat to the health and safety of Canadians
5. These toxins have been banned in several jurisdictions. As long as they remain in use in Canada, they will continue to cross provincial and protected boundaries.

These poisons pose a very serious danger to everything sharing a landscape. Use our list of 5 critical points to help you fill in the comment form online. Many countries

around the world have now banned these harmful substances that are still in use in Canada.

Join us in asking the Minister of Health to ban the use, production, processing and sale of Compound 1080, Strychnine and M-44 Cyanide Devices outright across Canada. Alberta's Strychnine permit will be reviewed federally for renewal in 2017, so we are also asking Alberta to end use and stop renewing permits for these harmful poisons. To send a message requesting a ban, [click here!](#)

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[Asthma Canada:](#)

[Breathe Easy - Asthma Canada's 2017 Conference](#)

On October 21st, 2017, Asthma Canada will bring together researchers, clinicians, patients, caregivers and other stakeholders who work in the area of respiratory health to examine the complex health, social and economic issues related to asthma and reflect on the patient experience in Canada

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[Breathe Easy - Asthma Canada's 2017 Conference](#)

Asthma **Canada's 4th Annual Conference for Patients, Caregivers, Healthcare Professionals, Stakeholders and Industry.**  
Saturday October 21st, 2017; 8:30 - 5:00  
Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, ON.

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[CBC News New Brunswick](#)

[Students Try To Give Lowly Potato Peel A Future In Furniture](#)

A company started by six Mount Allison students sees a place for potato peels in furniture, flooring and ceiling tiles.

Enviroot's goal is to reduce waste by using food remains, especially potato peelings, to make a safe material for use in the home.

The company received a national business prize of \$20,000 from Enactus Canada, a student-led entrepreneurial organization, and the McCain Social Enterprise Project Partnership to get the project going this summer.

"We use the potato peels that we get from McCain Foods here in New Brunswick in our particle board as a kind of filler," said Justin Trueman, Enviroot CEO and fourth-year biology student.

The potato peels are plasticized by melting them a little bit, and a bond between the potato peels' particles is created.

This allows them to bind products together without need of formaldehyde, which is the glues of some household furnishings, walls and stairs made from composite wood materials.

Trueman said the team wants to create a product people can have in their houses as an alternative to something that has formaldehyde in it.

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### [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\)](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is pleased to announce the launch of the Infectious Diseases and Climate Change Fund. PHAC is currently accepting funding requests from interested applicants to address the impact of climate change on human health by building and increasing access to infectious disease-based evidence, education and awareness. The focus will be on preparing for and protecting Canadians from climate-driven infectious diseases that are zoonotic (diseases that can be transmitted from animals and insects to humans), food-borne and/or water-borne.

PHAC would like to invite your organization to review the attached Invitation to Submit a Funding Request and submit a project proposal by 11:59pm, Friday, September 29, 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these documents, please contact PHAC's Centre for Grants and Contributions by email at [CGCOperationsCSC@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:CGCOperationsCSC@phac-aspc.gc.ca).

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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