



Your Health and a Changing Climate

Activities Update Fall 2002

Climate Change and Health Office
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CCHO ACTIVITIES UPDATE - FALL 2002

The mandate of the Climate Change and Health Office (CCHO) is to address the expected impacts of climate change on health and well-being by working with partners, both inside and outside of the Government, to better understand the effects of climate change, to raise awareness of these effects and begin integrating climate change considerations into public health policies in Canada.

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH

NEW PARTNER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

The CCHO welcomes the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) which has agreed to coordinate Health Canada's *Health and Socio-economic Impacts Research Network*.

IISD will apply its expertise in the area of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change as coordinator of this network. Research partners will benefit from its experience in addressing the social and economic impacts of environmental degradation on community health & well-being, including issues related to climate change. The Institute works with more than a dozen research organizations around the world on climate change issues.

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HEALTH CANADA HOSTS THE C-CIARN HEALTH SECTOR

CCHO is hosting the Health Sector of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN) (www.c-ciarn.ca).

This Government of Canada initiative aims at building a network of researchers and stakeholders that will help to develop credible information on Canada's vulnerabilities to climate change and identify the most significant impacts and adaptation options. A number of regional and sectoral networks have been established through C-CIARN. Each network is comprised of researchers and stakeholders involved in climate change impacts and adaptation activities, and is managed by a coordinating office at a host institution. CCHO fulfills its C-CIARN Health Sector coordination role while achieving its mandate to develop national policies for assessing and managing the risks to health & well-being from climate change and climate variability.

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ASSESSING THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Health Canada has been working with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Program, the World Meteorological Organization and other international experts to develop a common set of tools and methods for use by national Ministries of Health who need to assess the health and social impacts of climate change and climate variability. The tools and methods are being compiled in a draft guidelines document which is expected to be released Fall, 2002 and will

eventually be made available to Provincial/Territorial Ministries of Health and interested public health groups. Once the draft guidelines are completed, an international pilot process will begin.

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ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH INFORMATION TOOLKIT

The possible impacts of climate change are of concern to many Canadians. The Canadian Public Health Association recently called for greater attention to climate change and health issues at its 2001 Annual General Meeting, as did a number of people during the cross-country stakeholder consultations on the *Federal Climate Change Discussion Paper* in June, 2002.

CCHO is developing a *Climate Change and Health Information Toolkit* to assist public health practitioners and policymakers in better understanding the health-related implications of climate change and in communicating information about climate change to health decision-makers in local communities. The Toolkit will include a series of fact sheets, an easy-to-adapt presentation, a policy primer on climate change and health, an educational brochure, and other sources of information. The Toolkit will be completed in early 2003. It will be made available to key health partners including Provincial and Territorial Ministries of Health and public health organizations. It will also be available on the CCHO Web site at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cc

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NORTHERN WORKSHOP SUMMARY DOCUMENT

On July 6-7, 2002, Health Canada hosted a *Public Health Planning Workshop on Climate Change and Health & Well-being in the North* in Yellowknife, NWT. Health Canada officials, Chief Medical Officers of Health, and representatives from public health organizations and Aboriginal groups met to share information about climate change and health issues in the North and to assess the current status and need for adaptation actions. The workshop identified how various public health programmes might be affected by climate change and considered opportunities for enhanced collaboration to address climate change and health issues. Participants voiced the deep concern expressed in northern communities about the impacts on health they are observing associated with climate change. They discussed the need for more information sharing, coordination, and engagement with public health partners in local communities. The proceedings of the workshop will be available on the CCHO at the end of 2002 (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cc).

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HUMAN HEALTH IN CANADA'S NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE BUSINESS PLAN 2002

The National Climate Change Business Plan 2002 demonstrates the continued efforts of Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to manage the risks of climate change by taking individual and joint action to reduce emissions, to prepare to adapt to a changing environment, and to encourage and enable action by all Canadians.

For the first time, the Business Plan 2002 includes a section on Health and Well-being which details the knowledge development, policy development and public health outreach and awareness initiatives being undertaken jointly by Health Canada and its

wide range of health partners. This document is available at www.nccp.ca

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

LAUNCH OF NEW CCHO WEB SITE

Find out how Health Canada is addressing the impacts of climate change on the health and well-being of Canadians through:

- Canada's Health Impacts from Climate Change and Variability Table which identifies significant health concerns related to climate change
- Knowledge Development & Exchange
- Planning the Public Health Response
- Partnership Development
- International Collaboration
- Upcoming & recently held conferences, events & workshops
- Publications & reports and poster on Health and the Environment
- Funding sources for researchers
- Climate change and health Web links from around the world

In late 2002 (date to be confirmed) visit:

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cc

CCHO LISTSERVE

To sign up on our CCHO listserv contact: ClimatInfo@hc-sc.gc.ca to obtain updates on workshops, conferences and further information.

ARCHIVE OF EVENTS

Information on past CCHO events can be found at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cc

LIST OF HIRNS

Temperature-related morbidity and mortality

Organization: In negotiaton

Extreme weather events

Organization: Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
Coordinator: Leanna Falkiner
(lfalkiner@iclr.org)

Air pollution-related health effects

Organization: New Brunswick Lung Association
Coordinator: Barb MacKinnon
(barb.makinnon@nb.lung.ca)

Water-and food-borne contamination

Organization: Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada
Coordinator: Dominique Charron
(Dominique.Charron@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Vector-borne and zoonotic diseases

Organization: Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada
Coordinator: Dominique Charron
(Dominique.Charron@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Population vulnerability in rural and urban communities

Organization: Centre hospitalier de l'Université Laval
Coordinator: Pierre Gosselin
(Pierre-L.Gosselin@crchul.ulaval.ca)

Children's health and well-being

(component of Pop. Vulner.)

Organization: Centre for Chronic
Disease Prevention and
Control, Health Canada

Coordinator: Wendy Thompson
(Wendy.Thompson@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Socio-economic impacts on health & well-being

Organization: International Institute
for Sustainable Development

Coordinator: Jennifer Castleden
(jcastleden@iisd.ca)

Stratospheric ozone depletion

Organization: (To be announced)

Further details: Pierrette Miron
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*For more information, we invite you to reach
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