

March 31, 2004

Mario Simard
General Counsel
Health Protection Legislative Renewal
Health Protection Branch Building #7
0700A Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2

Re: The Proposed Canadian Health Protection Act

Dear Mr Simard:

The Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) would like to thank you for giving environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) the capacity to be effectively consulted on the proposed new Canada Health Protection Act (CHPA).

With your support, CEN organized a national consultation session to review the Act and a draft ENGO position. Over 30 ENGO representatives participated in the session and collectively expressed appreciation for the financial support that allowed for the consultation and for the drafting of an ENGO coordinated position through the CEN. It was also noted that not often enough do ENGOS work in collaboration with Health Canada (HC) on policymaking processes and that they are looking forward to more collaborative work in the future.

Attached is a brief elaborating our concerns and providing recommendations for the improvement of CHPA. After our review, we have concluded that the current proposals will not improve the health of Canadians and will lead to lower health standards and less governmental scrutiny. Thus, we do not support the proposed reforms as they stand. We urge that they be withdrawn and revised with the inclusion of the recommendations listed in our brief. These recommendations remedy many of the current deficiencies of the proposed statutes and would better protect the health of Canadians.

More and more the links between environment and health are becoming obvious. We look forward to continued dialogue as to how we can increase our mutual efforts. We are certain that you will find the recommendations within the brief insightful and useful for the task at hand. We look forward to our continued work together.

Should you have any questions or comments please contact me at 728-9810 ext. 24 or at chantal@cen-rce.org.

Yours truly,

Chantal Bois
National Caucus Coordinator
Canadian Environmental Network

On behalf of the following ENGO signatories:

Canadian Environmental Law Association
Sierra Club of Canada
Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP)
Pollution Probe
Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER)
The Allergy & Environmental Illness Group
Citizens Environment Alliance of southwestern Ontario
University of Manitoba Recycling and Environmental Group
Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation
Sierra Youth Coalition
Environmental Defense Canada
Citizens' Stewardship Coalition
Poetical Asylum
New Brunswick Partners in Agriculture
Nova Scotia Allergy and Environmental Health Association
Canadian EarthCare Society
Saint John Citizens Coalition
One Sky - Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living
Le groupe environmental Calhoun/Memramcook
The Regional Environmental Action Committee
Friends of the Oldman River
Parksville Streamkeepers Society
Inter-church Uranium Committee/Educational Cooperative Saskatoon
Tantramar Environmental Alliance (TEA)
The Gaia Group
STORM Coalition
PEI Eco-Net
PEI Climate Change Hub
Stop the Hogs Coalition, Saskatchewan
Community Recycling Committee
Healthy Food Choices Group
People Against Nuclear Energy
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
Hog Watch Manitoba, Inc
Conservation Council of New Brunswick