



Coalition NOTES

Issue 1, Number 2

Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care

Summer 2004

Founding Members

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Toronto

Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Cambridge

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2)

Canadian College of Health Service Executives (CCHSE)

Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society (CHES)

Canadian Medical Association (CMA)

Canadian Nurses Association (CNA)

Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA)

Canadian Society for Environmental Medicine (CSEM)

College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)

Great Lakes United

Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto (HSC)

Ontario College of Family Physicians, Environmental Health Committee

Pollution Probe

RiverSides Stewardship Alliance

St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener

Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, Toronto

Toronto Environmental Alliance

University of Alberta Hospitals

University Health Network, Toronto

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority - Laboratory Medicine Program

DON'T MISS THE OHA EDUCATION SESSIONS

November 15

8:30 am - 11:30 am

Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society sponsors Energy Efficiency training by industry experts.

November 16

8:30 am - 11:30 am

Join keynote speaker Bob Rae and others at the Green Health Care Session hosted by the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care



Mission To minimize the adverse environmental and human health impact of Canada's health care system.

Vision Canada's health care system operates in an environmentally responsible manner.

Goal The adoption by all components of Canada's health care system - public and private - of resource conservation and pollution prevention principles and effective environmental management systems.

The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care is committed to encouraging the adoption of resource conservation and pollution prevention principles and effective environmental management systems, without compromising safety and care, so as to protect human health and reduce the Canadian health care system's ecological impact.

The Coalition works with health care organizations and facilities, health care professionals, governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and others to raise awareness of this issue and to increase the capacity of health care organisations and their staff or members to address this issue.

OHA-Coalition Partnership Continues in '04

Brian Shields

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), in association with the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care, will be partnering for the fourth consecutive year to promote the "greening" of health care at the annual OHA Convention & Exhibition, Health Achieve in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre November 15-17, 2004.

This year's Green Health Care Session promises to be the most dynamic and exciting yet, featuring former Ontario Premier, Bob Rae as keynote speaker. Also slated to speak is Dr. John Howard, Professor of Paediatrics and Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, who will speak on the correlation between the physical, economic, social and political environments and our health. Additional topics to be addressed during the session include: measuring the benefits of an energy awareness program, reducing toxic chemicals in hospitals, the safe disposal of old office and medical equipment, and the proper recycling of used printer ink cartridges.

The Convention is also an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the environmental successes that Ontario hospitals have already made, with the presentation of the Green Health Care Awards. The awards recognize hospitals and individuals who demonstrate leadership and excellence in reducing health care's environmental impact. Awards will be granted for outstanding achievements in four categories: Energy Efficiency, Pollution Prevention, Overall Leadership and Individual Leadership. The awards will be presented after the close of the Green Health Care Session.

Another integral part of the Convention is the Green Lane featuring exhibitors whose products or services offer a clear environmental benefit to hospitals, such as those that improve energy efficiency, reduce resource consumption and waste production, prevent pollution, or reduce the use of toxic substances. The Green Lane can be found in the 1700 aisle on the convention floor, with additional "green" companies in the 1800 aisle.

"We need to think about how to balance the risks/costs with the potential benefits of everything we do! This is where Coalitions are extremely useful, because we have many brains from many different fields who can potentially bring their creativity to developing 'best practice' solutions."

Dr. Lynn Marshall, Environmental Health Clinic, Sunnybrook/Woman's College

Canadian Coalition on the NET

The document *'Doing Less Harm: Assessing and Reducing the Environmental and Health Impact of Canada's Health Care System'* has been added to the Healthcare EnviroNet website. To view visit: <http://www.c2p2online.com/healthcare> (Click on 'Areas of Concern' and then scroll down to 'Documents that provide a broad overview of environmental impacts')

The Spring 2004 edition of *Coalition Notes*, the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care newsletter may be viewed at <http://www.c2p2online.com/healthcare> (Click on 'What's New')

Dr. Lynn Marshall Wins Canadian Red Cross Power of Humanity Award

Our colleague Dr. Lynn Marshall, the Director of the Environmental Health Clinic at Sunnybrook and Women's Health Sciences Centre is one of three winners of the Canadian Red Cross (Ontario) Power of Humanity Award. Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Marshall would surely speak to her enthusiasm and dedication to advancing research and awareness of environmental health issues.

In addition to her tireless work with the Environmental Health Clinic, her contribution to the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care is also being recognized. Dr. Marshall was and a key facilitator and supporter of the workshops and planning that led to the formation of the Coalition, and her and her staff have continued to lend crucial support.

So congratulations Dr. Marshall - and another feather in the cap of the very wonderful and groundbreaking Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care and Health Care Without Harm!

Dr. Lynn Marshall is the Medical Director of the Environmental Health Clinic at Women's College Ambulatory Care Centre, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre. She has been a key facilitator of partnerships between the medical sector and community/environmental organizations. Most recently, Dr. Marshall played a role in the formation of the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. The Coalition is a national network of hospitals, environmental organizations and health care associations formed in 2000 to promote environmental responsibility in health care. For more information please visit www.sunnybrookandwomens.on.ca.

NEW VIDEO SHOWS HOSPITALS HOW TO HAVE PESTICIDE-FREE LAWNS!

The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), a founding member of the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care, has just released a unique new video on the dangers of cosmetic pesticides.

It sets out the scientific case against these harmful chemicals, then shows you how to have a gorgeous lawn without using poisons. If your hospital wants to show its environmental commitment, why not go pesticide-free this year? This user-friendly, step-by-step video shows you how. Order directly from CAPE by phoning (416) 306-2273 or by e-mailing gideon@cape.ca.



Green Health Care Web Resources



2004 "How British Columbia is greening health systems" *Healthcare Quarterly* 7(2): 29. www.longwoods.com/hq/HQ72-2004/HQ72Green.html

2003 "The Healthy Hospital" (Editorial) *Hospital Quarterly* 6(4): 68-9. www.longwoods.com/hq/HQ64-2003/HQ64Hancock.html

2002/3 "You are what you serve: Healthy and environmentally friendly food service" (Editorial) *Hospital Quarterly* 6(2): 30 - 31. www.longwoods.com/hq/HQ62win0203/HQ62Hancock.html

2002 "Green Healthcare Architecture" (Editorial) *Hospital Quarterly* 5(4) 10,12. www.longwoods.com/hq/summer02/HQ54green.html

2002 "Be Good as Gold - Buy Green" (Editorial) *Hospital Quarterly* 5(3). www.longwoods.com/hq/spring02/HQ53green.html

2002 "Energy, Health and Health Care" (Editorial) *Hospital Quarterly* 5(2). 62-3 www.longwoods.com/hq/winter0102/HQ52THancock.html

2001 "Greening Health Care: An Emerging International Movement" (Editorial) *Hospital Quarterly* 5(1):8. www.longwoods.com/hq/fall01/HQ51green.html

Kingston General Hospital joins Coalition

We would like to welcome the Kingston General Hospital (KGH) as our newest member of the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. KGH has embraced their responsibility to minimize the adverse environmental and human health impacts of their actions in a number of ways including the replacement of their chillers, restricting the use of pesticides on their grounds and the use of environmentally preferred cleaning products. Their next major initiative for KGH will be a hospital-wide awareness campaign aimed at making staff more aware of energy conservation, waste recycling, the impact health care has on the environment and how everyone can do their part.

CHES Features Energy Efficiency Theme at OHA

At this Fall's OHA Convention in Toronto the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society (CHES) is hosting an energy efficiency session. Greenhouse gas emissions have certainly becoming a world-wide concern and as health care providers we must do our part to reduce emissions. The November 15th session will include presentations on the availability/high cost of energy sources, lessons learned from recent energy conservation projects and an introduction to the LEED standard. There are many ways to reduce our energy consumption through hardware & technology upgrades and staff awareness. Plan on joining CHES for this important session.

Coalition Notes is produced by the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. Your comments are encouraged. at feedback@greenhealthcare.ca

Visit us on-line at: www.greenhealthcare.ca.

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