



To: Members of Children's Health and Environment Partnership

September 14th, 2001.

Re: Budget for the Children's Health and Environment Partnership.

The Children's Environmental Partnership provides an amazing opportunity for the current partners, CAPE, CELA, HP&EPO, SRCHC, to work with other Canadian NGOs towards improving children's environmental health. The partnership has received \$35,000 from the Laidlaw Foundation and the Trillium Foundation. CELA was the lead applicant for the \$10,000 received from Laidlaw. SRCHC was the lead applicant for \$25,000 received from Laidlaw.

The Laidlaw Foundation will support the sorting out infrastructure issues of the partnership and more face-to-face meetings. The Trillium foundation has added additional funds for partnership development/expanding the partnership, as well as providing funds for inventory development, a technical survey, and the development of a strategic plan. Our understanding is that these funds will provide an opportunity for the partners to:

- take stock of what we have done and are doing in the area of children's environmental health and where our organization plan to focus their energy;
- to establish how the partners will work together – i.e. develop a governance model for collaborative work;
- Technically assess how information re children's environmental health can be shared electronically between the partners.
- Meet face to face to solidify the partnership.

SRCHC has some concerns regarding the current budget as it is presented in the minutes of the Sept 5 meeting of the CHEP. The budget does not seem to reflect the activities involved in partnership development. Relatively little money is going towards travel, long distance and meeting costs compared to the amount devoted to project management.

SRCHC has significant experience in community development and working in partnerships. Partnership development requires the partners to meet, dialogue and establish trust while determining the ways in which they can and are willing to work together, how decisions will be made and developing mechanisms for dealing with differences of opinion. This needs to be reflected in the budget.

The budget should more clearly reflect the process and what we plan to achieve at the end of the 6-month partnership development period. A meeting is needed to table concerns and to develop a detailed budget reflective of the partnership development process that can be agreed upon prior to the submitting the signed letter of agreement to the funder. I understand that there will be a meeting on September 19th and suggest

that these issues be addressed at that time. Ultimately, the success of the project will be determined by the care taken in developing the partnership.

Sincerely,

Lynne Raskin,
Executive Director
South Riverdale CHC