

CELA's History with the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, CPAC and CLASP

I thought it would be helpful to give a history of CELA involvement with the National Committee on Environmental and Occupational Exposures formerly a Committee of Health Canada's Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control and now a Committee of the Canadian Partnership against Cancer now an arms-length agency.

While Paul was a member of this Committee he managed to be part of efforts that led to Anne Wordsworth writing the Best Practices Report which has formed the basis of this Committee's mandate for the rest of its work. This report was sent to every Cancer and Health agency in Canada with the Strategy's recommendations at the time. Other excellent work that this Committee has done is to fund the building at UBC of a Canadian CAREX www.carex.ca

CAREX is making progress on identifying where exposures are occurring in Canadian workplaces and in the Canadian environment. They have also done a study comparing Ontario and BC workplace exposures. Part of the mandate of the CAREX project is to influence policy and prevention programs. <http://www.carexcanada.ca/background/>

It will be important to submit proposals which acknowledge and build on the use of this tool. As you know Cancer Care Ontario has also developed another exciting surveillance tool. It drills down to the neighbourhood level and looks at Cancer data. I am on a call on Friday on the potential to have CLASP enable these two tools to be integrated in a way their unique benefits can be applied to future work and the proposals coming forward.

In the time I have been on the NCEO the Committee has determined they want to focus efforts on toxic use reduction as a disease prevention measure and were set to receive proposals two years ago to this end. I was part of a subcommittee that spent months drafting new proposal guidelines with Andy King. It was our hope to offer grants to many groups who were involved in TUR activities. Enter the new Corporation and CPAC CEO Jessica Hill. Jessica from the onset made it clear she was opposed to our proposal guidelines and would not be funding ENGOs as she has had bad experiences working with them. That year and the subsequent year we gave back the majority of our Committee's budgets. What ended up evolving was that collaborative projects of Committee Members were funded so Alan's and U of T's project an e-course for doctors on taking occupational histories, and Heather Logan and Mae's project on labelling for carcinogens was done the background paper and conference report was written by Anne. Larry and Larbi are organising a conference on Best Practices for asbestos victim registeries. Late this year we scrambled to get a scan of toxic use reduction activity done as the first step in what we hoped would be a longer Three year toxic reduction project. Anne and I discussed whether she would bid on this RFP but I discouraged her from getting involved in the initial phase as it was expressed that they had already used her for several other projects and wanted to diversify. As it turns out the contract was let to Dorothy Wigmore. Andy, Larry, Deb Keen of CPAC and I are on the Steering Committee for this project. Then out of the blue the CLASP Initiative appeared and poor Dorothy was asked to re-jig her work to inform that process. As she was understandably experiencing challenges doing that Anne was subcontracted by Deb Keen directly to provide the government part of the scan which was submitted by the March 31, 2009

deadline. What remains unclear is whether CLASP will overwhelm our Committee entirely. Jessica Hill has expressed to Ruth Grier that the environment might just have to go. I have done my best to keep the Committee informed of TUR and CRTK activities and others from across the country on the Committee are trying to replicate our experience, Mae Burrows and Toxic Free Canada is interested in CRTK by-law in Vancouver, Corrie Parker from Alberta's Cancer Agency commissioned Anne Wordsworth to do a Carcinogen Scan for Alberta which was completed about a month ago

Our NCEOE Committee is not the only Prevention Group it is a subcommittee of the Primary Prevention Action Group and there is also a National Skin Care Prevention Committee other of their "Prevention" work is antithetical to many on our committee such as their The Canadian Platform To Increase Usage of Real-World Evidence (CAPTURE) .

Note when you visit the Primary Prevention page on their website

<http://www.partnershipagainstcancer.ca/prevention>

you will find our committee mentioned under *more* without any in depth information except that they feature our CAREX project. I have done my best to try to increase their awareness that projects fitting a National scope will need to enable provincial and local activities.

Jon Kerner's agenda to build coalitions is in part a way to create partnerships that will leapfrog over objections to working with ENGOs in part by creating new Coalitions with groups that CPAC trusts, their more traditional partners. It is very much about leveraging funds from other chronic disease groups. For the CLASP initiative he was only successful in getting Heart and Stroke. Note that Anne wrote the paper for Mary Lewis of Heart and Stroke that first explored the links with toxics and heart disease and the common agenda they have with cancer prevention. Heart and Stroke's interests that were managed in the Montreal Meeting focusing on the environment is in obesity and the built environment. We can be sure that one grant will go for a project that addresses this. Although Anne says they are also interested in broadening their work on toxics. The other two initial CLASP meetings were one in Calgary and another in Toronto were on clinical and social determinants. There is a whole binder with Jon Kerner's presentation we can review although warning it may confound. There is a website where all the project ideas have been posted from those meetings. It is

www.cancercollab.ca/primaryprevention/CLASP. My password to that site is

Username: sarah.miller@cancercollab.ca

Password: clasp123 (case-sensitive)

Letters of Intent are optional and are due by May 31, 2009

The Application forms come out June 1st

They are due July 17th

The winners will be announced in September

Projects will commence in October.

I just spoke with Deb to seek clarification on whether there would be a conflict if CELA worked through two separate coalitions we are members of and she said absolutely not.

The municipal meeting and the Calgary meeting are for potential partners to get together to work on proposals.

