



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

September 18, 2001

Lynn R. Goldman, M.D., MPH
Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health
615 N. Wolfe Street / W8511
Baltimore, MD 21205-1996
USA

Dear Lynn,

RE: Commission on Environmental Cooperation Request for Proposals: Development of a Special Feature on Toxic Chemicals and Children's Health in North America

Further to our discussions last week in Washington, we would be thrilled to participate as your Canadian partner in the above-noted proposal. As you know, we have conducted extensive research, policy analysis and related outreach activities within our Children's Health Project. Begun as a joint project of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and the Ontario College of Family Physicians Environmental Health Committee, our two organizations have also worked closely with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE). Since the proposal at hand is a national effort, we are offering the collaboration of CELA and CAPE as your Canadian partner. We see this work as a logical continuation of our ongoing research, outreach and educational efforts recognizing as well that your office will be the lead consultant, should the proposal be approved.

We have considerable depth within our two organizations in the areas of children's environmental health, particularly with respect to hazardous substances, pesticides and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Our unique collaboration enables us to draw upon the "in-house" expertise of specialists in both the scientific/medical and legal/policy and regulatory areas that this project will require. We can also draw upon the extensive work already completed in our Children's Health Project¹ as well as many years of work on emissions, exposure levels and effects of toxic substances in the environment and on human health, particularly in the Great Lakes basin ecosystem, as well as the relevant national and international law and policy in this area.

The recently launched PollutionWatch website (www.pollutionwatch.org) is a joint project of CELA and two other environmental group partners. That website relies upon the National

¹ See Cooper, K., L. Vanderlinden, T. McClenaghan, K. Keenan, K. Khatter, P. Muldoon and A. Abelsohn, *Environmental Standard Setting and Children's Health*, joint project of the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Ontario College of Family Physicians Environmental Health Committee, May 2000. 392 pp. Available at www.cela.ca/chp/c-index.htm

Pollutant Release Inventory, a database with which we are very familiar. As you may know, the secretariat of the International POPs Elimination Network has recently re-located to CELA's offices, a move which strengthens our involvement and long history of working on this issue and towards the recently signed POPs Treaty.

The above background is intended to provide a general sense of the internal resources and expertise that should enable us to efficiently and effectively provide the Canadian data collection that will be required for this project. In short, we expect our role to be in two general areas: 1) data collection for input to your office's document production process and 2) iterative review and comment on drafts of the document.

The following list summarizes our interpretation of our data/information collection role. For each it is assumed that the research lens will be to focus on those areas of particular relevance to children's health as well as to indicate data gaps that limit the capacity to know about potential children's health risks:

- data regarding Canadian emissions of those pollutants within the scope of this project and other pollutants, as appropriate;
- data regarding Canadian exposure estimates, where these have been determined, of these same pollutants; and
- data/information sources about health effects in Canadian children including an indication of both observed associations as well as areas where evidence is more tenuous.

We have attached biographies for two CELA staff and two physicians from CAPE, all four of whom we expect will be working on this project directly and in an advisory capacity. As well, we expect that other staff within CELA will be able to assist as their areas of expertise allow. We will also be benefiting from the advice of the rest of the Children's Health Project research and writing team that worked the *Environmental Standard Setting and Children's Health* report, in particular, the principal researcher and writer for the health side of the team, Dr. Loren Vanderlinden, now with the Health Promotion and Environmental Protection Office of the City of Toronto Department of Public Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to work in partnership with you on this effort and we look forward to a valuable and stimulating collaboration.

**Canadian Environmental Law
Association**


Kathleen Cooper
Researcher

**Canadian Association of Physicians
for the Environment**


Kapil Khatter, M.D.
Executive Director

Encl.



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Kathleen Cooper

BIOGRAPHY

Kathy Cooper graduated from the University of Toronto in 1984 with a specialist degree in Environmental Studies. She has worked in environmental research positions for various public interest organizations and is co-author of several publications about environmental lead pollution including *The Citizens Guide to Lead: Uncovering a Hidden Health Hazard*, NC Press, 1986. She joined the Canadian Environmental Law Association as a researcher in 1987. Research, writing, advocacy and community organizing responsibilities at CELA have included work on the subjects of environmental assessment, toxic substances, food irradiation, forestry, pesticides, climate change, land use planning and in recent years, on the issue of environmental deregulation and natural resource privatization in Ontario. She is co-author of a large research project published in May of 2000 addressing environmental standard-setting and children's health. This joint effort of the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Ontario College of Family Physicians Environmental Health Committee is continuing with various educational and outreach activities and further research including a particular focus on reforming federal pesticides legislation.

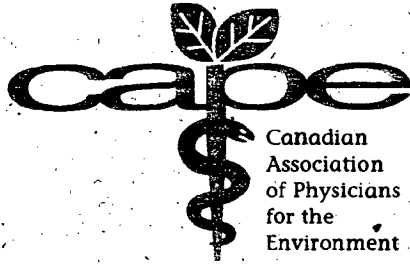


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Theresa McClenaghan

BIOGRAPHY

Theresa McClenaghan holds an LL.B. from the University of Western Ontario (1984), an LL.M. (constitutional law) from Osgoode Law School (York University, 1999) and a diploma in Environmental Health from McMaster University (1999). She is a member of the Bars of Manitoba and Ontario. Theresa has practised public interest environmental law for sixteen years, both in private practice and since joining the Canadian Environmental Law Association as counsel in May 1998. As counsel to CELA, Theresa represents clients in environmental issues, conducts law reform activities, prepares briefs and submissions for various purposes, and provides public legal education. Theresa was a co-author of the Laidlaw-funded joint study by CELA and the Ontario College of Family Physicians, *Environmental Standard Setting and Children's Health*. Her expertise includes public interest advocacy and representation in the areas of environmental health and law, aboriginal environmental law issues, waste management, Ontario's nuclear and energy industries, contaminated sites clean up, environmental aspects of land use planning, and constitutional law issues. Theresa was co-council acting for 11 Intervenor before a Supreme Court of Canada in a case involving Hudson Quebec's Pesticide Municipal Bylaws controlling pesticides. At present, Theresa, along with other lawyers at CELA, represent the Concerned Walkerton Citizens who have full standing in both parts of the Walkerton Inquiry.



Dr. Kapil Khatter

Personal Biography

Dr. Kapil Khatter is Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE). His policy work for CAPE includes the regulation of substances in the environment and the effects of environmental hazards on children. Dr. Khatter presently sits on a technical advisory committee to Environment Canada looking at the assessment of existing substances and is a member of the Expert Advisory Panel on DEHP in Medical Devices for Health Canada. He recently presented on Risk and the Precautionary Principle at the Global Forum on Children's Environmental Health in Washington, DC.

Dr. Khatter was co-author of the Canadian Environmental Law Association – Ontario College of Family Physicians report, *Environmental Standard Setting and Children's Health*. His contribution included a survey of legislation and initiatives to control toxic substances in Canada.

Children's environmental health is CAPE's main priority, and the organization recently completed its *Children's Environmental Health Project*, a web-based resource for educating about the effects of environmental contaminants on children's health. Aimed primarily at health professionals, the resource looks at children's health and the environment by affected systems.

Dr. Khatter is also currently a Masters candidate in Environmental Studies at York University in Toronto. His Masters focus is science, values and health regulation. A family physician, Dr. Khatter was trained at McGill University and has worked both in family practice and in the emergency room. In addition, he has worked in village areas in India, training community health workers, and as the Acting Assistant Director of the National Anti-Poverty Organization.

09-18-01

Alan Abelsohn, MD, FCFP

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Abelsohn is a Family Physician in practice in Toronto, and a lecturer and consultant in Environmental Health.

He graduated from the University of Cape Town Medical School, and studied Family Medicine at the University of Toronto. He obtained a Diploma in Environmental Health at McMaster University in 1997.

He is a Lecturer, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, and teaches environmental health at Innis College, University of Toronto. He is Chair, Environmental Health Committee, Ontario College of Family Physicians; Chair, Environment Committee, World Council of Family Medicine (WONCA); Canadian co-chair, International Joint Commission (IJC), Health Professionals Task Force; board member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE); and a Fellow of the LEAD program (Leadership in Environment and Development).

Dr. Abelsohn has extensive research, writing and public speaking experience on environmental health issues. In recent work he co-authored an educational CD ROM teaching module entitled Environmental Health in Family Medicine.