

# *Attachment #1*

## **NCEOE Meeting – Dec 11, 2006 (Ottawa)**

### **Record of Discussions**

#### **1. Update on the PP-AG and the CSCC – Barbara Kaminsky**

On Nov24, the Prime Minister announced details regarding the Federal Governments commitment to the CSCC. The main elements of this announcement, and the only details which are publicly known, are: the Federal Government has announced plans for \$260M in funding over five years for the creation of the 'Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC).' This new entity is dedicated to the implementation of the CSCC and will be: arm's length from the Federal Government; is a non-for-profit organization; and will be governed by a Board. The Chair of the Board has been selected and will be Jeff Lauzon (CEO, St.Micheal's Hospital, Toronto) and Vice-Chair is Dr. Simon Stueliffe (CEO, BC Cancer Agency). There will be P/T representation on the Board in addition to patient and aboriginal representatives. [Further information on the PM's announcement of the new entity can be found at <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&id=1417>]

This year, funding for cancer was available through the Integrated Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Strategy through PHAC. To this end, a letter of invite was sent to BC Yukon CCS inviting them to submit a proposal up to \$375K for various projects – the ones relating to the NCEOE include funding support for NCEOE members to attend the TUR workshop in Feb, another meeting, and additional projects outlined in the NCEOE's 06/07 work plan. The PP-AG total budget with the new funding for the CSCC will total approximately \$41M over the next 5 years - \$10M over the next five years will be dedicated to occupational and environmental carcinogens. Approval processes for this plan are still uncertain however further information received from the upcoming CSCC meetings will be communicated.

#### *Discussion:*

- NCEOE expressed the need for Cancer Prevention NGO's to be able to apply for funding and for Government Departments to be able to partner with NCEOE to do various projects.
- NCEOE asked if the PP-AG would link to the knowledge translation activities of the PHAC.
- NCEOE is also seeking clarity about the relationship of this new entity and government since it is assumed that there will be more freedom to take strong positions on certain issues, such as asbestos. NCEOE requires direction from the new entity about what their role will be in policy development and advocacy.
- The committee also asked when and how the new money would flow since they cannot get started on any new projects until new funding is received.

#### *Action Required:*

- Larry Stoffman to circulate the recent letter sent on behalf of the NCEOE to the Ontario Legislature supporting Bill 164.
- Barbara Kaminsky will be attending a CSCC Action Group Horizontality Meeting and last Governing Council meeting following the NCEOE Meeting. She will provide an update on the next steps for the PP-AG and the CSCC after these two meetings.
- Issues from the NCEOE to be brought forward to these CSCC meetings include:
  - policy development/advocacy role of the new entity and the NCEOE
  - funding mechanisms and timing

#### **2. Overview of NCEOE Work Plan – Larry Stoffman**

Refer to PowerPoint presentation slides circulated and attachments 13-18 in the PP-AG Strategic Plan circulated.

### **2.1. Overview of the CAREX Unit – Paul Demers**

Dr. Demers presented an overview of the proposed Environmental and Occupational Carcinogens Surveillance Unit. This unit will increase E/O surveillance and research capacity. Its national occupational and environmental CAREX projects, National Workplace Exposure Database, and clearing house of environmental carcinogen exposure data that will become a national resource for monitoring policy setting and research. Please refer to a detailed description attached.

#### *Discussion:*

The NCEOE needs their own web site or should be linked to the CSCC web site

Department of Agriculture needs to invited to the committee

It was suggested that the NCEOE also support a parallel process for participatory risk mapping

The unit should help build capacity since leading researchers in this area are retiring and not being replaced

This unit should also link with other research agencies within the country

A key priority for the NCEOE should be to produce a document that lists the priority occupational and environmental carcinogens that should be monitored

#### *Action Required:*

Hans Krueger to revise the NCEOE budget in the PP-AG Strategic Plan to reflect the additional priority activities identified

### **2.2. TUR conference and Follow-Up – Andy King**

Currently Canada lacks the capacity to provide information on how to reduce the use of toxic substances in Canada. The NCEOE has identified the need to develop a Toxic Use Reduction Strategy as part of its long term action plan. This would include providing support for a feasibility Study regarding the establishment of a Toxic Use Reduction centre. The NCEOE will partner with existing initiatives (e.g. the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention) and support the development of a municipal demonstration project through multi-year funding. Include funds for smaller grants for other initiatives identified.

The NCEOE is co-sponsoring an Environmental Carcinogen Use Reduction Symposium, February 6, 2007 in Toronto. During the symposium, participants will:

- Develop a common understanding about cancer and the environment and its current context within Ontario based on current evidence.
- Learn about successful environmental carcinogen use reduction experiences and practices in the United States and the European Union.
- Provide input on the recommendation for an environmental carcinogen use reduction strategy for Ontario.

The NCEOE is supporting the work in ON because this is a national issue and the committee can use this as a spring board to help other provinces.

#### *Discussion:*

- NCEOE members agreed that the Ontario Initiative should be a demonstration project for the NCEOE to help roll out in other municipalities.
- A number of NGOs have already suggested a TUR strategy and have undertaken campaigns, such as the CLC and the LEAS.
- It was suggested that a policy paper that goes beyond 1 and 2a carcinogens, but also precursors to cancer – endocrine disrupters etc... be prepared that links with a NCIC initiative underway defining endocrine disrupting chemicals and their link to cancer.

**Project Lead: Andy King**

*Action required:*

1. The NCEO will send a letter of support for the Community Right to Know bill in Ontario.
2. The NCEO will also send a letter of support for CELA's request for a by-law in the city of Toronto.
3. A sub-committee will be established to review all the activity underway in this field and will suggest a process for making decisions on next steps for the NCEO.

**2.3. WHMIS and MSDS Project – Dr. El Bilali**

Dr. El Bilali presented an overview of Health Canada's WHMIS and the regulatory framework underpinning it. He reconfirmed Health Canada's support for the NCEO's recommendation and explained the issues encountered by WHMIS including: inaccuracy of MSDSs/supplier labels, inaccurate ingredient disclosure and the lack of dedicated intelligence gathering. Dr. El Bilali concluded by stating that the National Office of WHMIS and its F/P/T government partners are interested in following up with the NCEO to address compliance and enforcement, infrastructure and capacity building. Next Steps for WHMIS include organizing a two-day working meeting on the theme "integrated primary prevention of chronic diseases in the work place – the accuracy, sufficiency and timeliness of hazard communication". Key members of the NCEO will be invited to attend.

**2.4. Occupational History & Medical Education**

A number of checklists were circulated. The NCEO discussed at length the need to undertake work around linking to exposure histories and that changes at three levels are required at the national level:

- I. **Family physicians** – suggested approaches: academic approach though targeting residents in the 16 family physicians training programs across Canada and through the promotion of a checklist that will assist family physicians to start collecting occupational and environmental exposure histories  
**Project Lead: Dr. Alan Ablesohn to work with Dr. Gary Liss, and liaise with Alan Katz (PPAG) to develop a proposal for disseminating educational materials and exposure checklists to family physician networks and organizations**

*Action Required:*

- Project Lead to assemble a small group to review checklists and recommend one with a process for discussion at the next NCEO meeting.
- Liaise with other groups – CPG-AG and the Task Force on Preventive Health Care

- II. **Institutions** – suggested approaches: electronic forms, cancer registries within cancer treatment centres

*Action Required:*

- NCEO wants to link with BC E&O WG developing a national discussion document on options for the systematic collection of occupational histories, pros/cons, partners, stakeholder options. It was suggested that this be a national RFP with examples/info from various provinces

**Project Leads: Paul Demers to update BC O/E project and present for NCEO support/discussion**

Another activity is to explore use of electronic forms for tracking exposure histories.

**Project Lead: Larbi El Bilali (Health InfoWay project)(?)**

- Cancer treatment centres collecting occupational history data and linking with family physicians.

**Project Leads: Munira Lalji/Rick Gallagher with Andy King, Gary Liss and Alan to review current institutional initiatives and to develop a proposal for methods. NCEO may support further work in this area for discussion at the next NCEO meeting**

**III. Community-based approaches:** – suggested approach: tracking exposure histories using participatory exposure mapping.

**Project Lead: Dr. Jim Brophy to develop a proposal for discussion at the next NCEO meeting**

#### **2.4. NGO Support**

There will be a lot of information generated from our strategic initiatives that we want to make available to NGO's so they can disseminate it and ensure it is acted upon. The NCEO will need to define how it support community based initiatives given that community based organizations have very little funding and need resources to build capacity at the grass roots level.

Heather Logan described a project that CCS was working on with respect to color coded product labels aimed at educating the public about products containing carcinogens. Mae Burrows explained that LEAS is also working on a similar campaign. It was suggested that the NCEO be a good place to coordinate these activities and not necessarily choose one initiative above another thereby causing organizations to compete against each other.

##### *Action Required:*

A sub-committee consisting of (Hans K, Heather L, Munira L, Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Sarah Miller and Mae B) will make an inventory of all community based organizations doing this type of work (structure, mandate, proposal and projects). The sub-committee will also define criteria of projects that would be funded and the types of organizations that could apply.

#### **2.5. REACH Chemicals Policy and CEPA Gap Analysis – Sarah Miller**

There will be a vote on the new REACH legislation on December 13, 2006. CELA report on this issue will be circulated to the committee at the end of the year. Follow up workshops will be held. Refer to background documentation on Bill 164, REACH and CEPA circulated for further details.

##### *Action Required:*

As the NCEO continues to monitor the situation, committee members should give thought on how to promote this legislation.

3. Federal Government's recently "Chemical Management Plan" - Sue Milburn-Hopwood Prime Minister Stephen Harper, along with the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health on Friday, unveiled Canada's new Chemicals Management Plan. The plan takes immediate action to regulate chemicals that are harmful to human health or the environment. Refer to background documentation provided.

##### *Action Required:*

The NCEO have concerns that a number of known carcinogens have not been included in the governments plan and therefore will continue to liaise with Sue Milburn with respect to how to ensure that they are addressed.

#### 4. Next Steps for the NCEO

In the coming months, the NCEO will refine its mandate, membership and structure. Project Leads will be confirmed via email and will be given further instructions. The NCEO sees itself as a coordinating body that can support the architecture of its key projects. It was suggested that the committee be more pan-Canadian and that an aboriginal representative be added.

**Prepared by:** Anna Maria Boscaino, National Cancer Coordination Unit, December 19, 2006

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