

**RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS
ON
WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**

Great Lakes Health Effects Program
Environmental Health Directorate
Health and Welfare Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

*Betty-Anne Fry
September, 1992*

* for more information, contact Mary Hegan, 952-8117

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1. Overview of the Consultation Project on Health and Environmental Issues Affecting Women

In '92-'93, the Consultation Unit of the Great Lakes Health Effects Program proposed to identify a network of groups in the Basin concerned about health and environmental issues affecting women. This work was to be carried out under GLHEP Project No. 112, *Health Information and Advice*. The following section is a description of the goals and objectives of this consultation project as well as methodology, data collection and the range of organizations contacted.

1.1. Goals

- a. To identify/establish and consult with a network of groups concerned about health and environment issues as they affect women.
- b. To provide required information and follow-up and partnership activities.

1.2 Objectives

- a. To identify groups in the Great Lakes Basin concerned about health and environment issues affecting women.
- b. To establish contact with these groups.
- c. To develop a profile of each group according to:
 - areas of concern/interest
 - mandate/mission statement
 - membership
 - size
 - national/provincial/local
 - newsletter (y/n)
 - awareness of GLHEP
 - contact person
 - etc.
- d. To develop of an overview of perceptions of major health concerns, sources of contamination and areas of interest related to health and environmental issues.
- e. To determine how the Great Lakes Health Effects Program could work in partnership with these organizations to address health and environment issues.

1.3. Methodology

An initial list of organizations was drafted from the following sources:

- general directories of organizations in Ontario and Canada;
- environment directories
 - *The Green List: A Guide to Canadian Environmental Organizations & Agencies*, Canadian Environment Network. 1991,
 - Ontario Environment Network;
- "Lakes" directories
- health directories;
- directories of women's organizations;
- suggestions from GLHEP staff.

A first contact was made to a broad list of organizations to establish the groups concerned about health and environmental issues affecting women. (If applicable, basic information on the organization was collected at this point.) This contact was made by telephone and followed up with mailouts of information on the Great Lakes Health Effects Program if it was requested. During the second contact with organizations interested in health and environmental issues affecting women, questions were asked about perceptions of key health issues, and sources of contamination, requirements for continuing work in this area and possible partnership opportunities with GLHEP. Information that was collected during the consultations has been grouped into major themes and is contained in Section 2 and 3 of this report. A complete listing of the results can be found in Appendix A.

1.4. Data Collection

Information was collected using two questionnaires. Data from the consultations is contained in both a binder and on a database in the Great Lakes Health Effect Division (REFLEX: file name - Women.RD2).

1.5. *The Range of Organizations*

There is a great deal of interest regarding the link between health and environment in the Great Lakes Basin, yet there are few existing organizations with mandates focused on women's health and the Great Lakes environment specifically. (Several years ago, a "Great Lakes Women's Network" was established with such a mandate, but it has since been disbanded). Therefore, the "network" of organizations that evolved during this project includes groups which range greatly in their focus, activities, and level of thinking about women's health and the environment. Many have just begun to discuss these issues and few have formal activities underway.

Organizations that comprise the "network" exist at the national, provincial, and community level. They include:

- Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Ontario
- Assembly of First Nations
- Canadian Environmental Law Association of Canada
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Federated Women's Institutes of Canada
- Friends of the Earth
- Great Lakes United
- Greenpeace
- Infertility Awareness Association of Canada
- La Leche League
- Nuclear Awareness Project
- Ontario Farm Women's Network
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Pesticide Action Group (local chapter)
- Raging Grannies (local chapter)
- Women, Education, Environment and Development Foundation (WEED)

Details of these organizations (eg. mandate, address, contact person, newsletters, etc) can be found in Appendix B.

2. Results of the Consultations

2.1. Summary

A number of key health concerns, organizational requirements for pursuing work in this area, and possible partnership opportunities with the Great Lakes Health Effects Program were identified by the groups consulted. (For a complete listing of these results, see Appendix A: "*Results of Consultations on Women's Health and the Environment*".) Major health issues that were reported on included a concern for women's reproductive health, in terms of the ability to conceive and bear healthy children. Specific routes of exposure to contaminants were not clearly identified during the consultation process. "Toxic chemicals" were described most frequently as the type of pollution posing the most serious threat to health.

In discussing the requirements of organizations to pursue or continue working in the area of women's health and the environment as well as opportunities for collaborative work with the Great Lakes Health Effects Program, many groups reported a need for information on health and the environment (eg. what is and is not known about the health effects of environmental contamination, what women can do to protect and reduce risk for themselves and their children, etc.). Several groups also indicated an interest in discussing the current state of health and environment knowledge and research priorities with Great Lakes scientists and researchers. A number of organizations described the need to network with similar groups on the issues related to human health and the environment. Finally, many groups indicated the need for financial support. More detailed comments can be found in Section 3 of this report.

2.2. Key Health Issues Related to the Environment

Although a variety of health concerns were raised by the groups, the effects of contamination on women's reproductive capabilities was an emerging theme. This concern

ranged from a discussion of the potential causes of infertility in women to the effects of contamination on children's development in utero and through breast feeding. Children's health (including birth defects, developmental effects, as well as cancer in children) was most often identified as a primary issue of concern. Several groups, in fact, felt it was a pivotal issue for encouraging collective action. Other identified health issues included cancer, asthma, etc. (For a complete listing of health concerns, see Appendix A.)

3. Needs of Organizations Consulted / Possible Partnership Activity

The following is a compilation of the needs that organizations stated to pursue and/or continue work in women's health and the environment. The groups contacted have also described various ways in which the Great Lakes Health Effects Program could support their actions in the Basin. Finally, this section provides a description of overall recommendations for ways in which they feel the issues of health and the environment should be approached.

3.1. Groups Need Information

Purpose:

- To increase understanding of the link between health and the environment;
- To provide supporting documentation for their concerns and activities;
- To provide information / education to group members and the community.

Specific information that is required:

- information on the link between health and the environment
 - eg. what is and is not known
- pathways of exposure
- epidemiological data
 - eg. childhood leukaemia and other cancers, birth defects, pregnancy outcomes (still births, spontaneous abortion), asthma, etc.
- what is being done to link existing data sets
- effects of toxins in breast milk on infants and on women
- what women can do to decrease their exposure to toxins
- information on what women can do to improve the environment - tips
- where to get funding to support health and environment initiatives
- tools for community action (like "No Place to Hide").

How this could be achieved:

- fact sheets
- reports
- contributions to newsletters
- external GLHEP newsletter
- GLHEP representation at conferences, meetings.

3.2. Groups Need Opportunities to Discuss Issues with Scientists and Researchers

Purpose:

- To expand upon and clarify group's knowledge of health and environment issues;
- To provide up-to-date information on what is or is not known about these issues;
- To discuss research priorities and make recommendation for areas of future research.

Key Issues to discuss:

- information on scientific background to issues
- new findings / updates - what is and what is not known about the health effects of environmental contamination
- explanation of what the research can and cannot say (eg. determining cause and effect relationships)
- how contamination is affecting women and their families / health effects
- pitfalls and successes of doing community-based research.
- the need to recognize community assessment of problems and involve them in research
- approaches to research
- why certain research areas are being pursued
- what other research areas should be pursued
- normalization of findings such as "birth defects"
- how to help their members become more scientifically literate

How this could be achieved:

- groups meet with scientists and researchers
- scientists attend groups' conferences and meetings and distribute materials
- scientists contribute to newsletters

3.3. Groups Need to Network

Purpose:

To provide an opportunity to collaborate, share experiences, and face issues collectively

Key issues to discuss:

- the need for a balanced approach to the issues - it is important to present both sides

of an issue, rather than use "scare tactics"

- what activities and approaches other groups are taking.

How this could be achieved:

- informing groups of others working on similar issues
- hosting a meeting
- developing an external newsletter.

3.4. Groups Need Financial Support

Purpose:

To continue working in the area of health and the environment.

Key Issues:

- many groups do not have the resources for basic operations and require "seed" money to continue
- much time is spent in applying to granting agencies for project money

How this could be achieved:

- groups could be provided with a resource document containing information on relevant funding sources
- GLHEP could serve as a funding body to support health and environment action in the Great Lakes Basin.

4. General Recommendations

- a. The link between health and the environment must continue to be forged - it is still weak in people's mind at present.
- b. There is a need to focus on high risk groups such as children, women and communities-at-risk.
- c. The Great Lakes Health Effects Program should support local community action.
- d. Communities should be involved in assessing health and environment problems and carrying out research.

5. Possible Action Steps for the Great Lakes Health Effects Program

Organizations that were consulted with for this report are at varying stages in their understanding and involvement in health and environment issues. As described, they report a general lack of information about the link between health and the environment. It is important therefore, that the Great Lakes Health Effects Program continues to provide updated information and education on what is and is not known about the link between health and the environment. Those organizations who are in the early stages of discussing these issues are reluctant to meet on them until they are better equipped to do so. A meeting of these groups with GLHEP scientists could follow this.

Action Steps

A. Provide Resource Materials

- provide information on what is and is not known about health and the environment in the Great Lakes Basin
- make materials user-friendly / applicable to communities
- focus materials on children's health and reproductive health
- distribute or inform organizations of materials that would be useful for their members
- develop an external newsletter to keep organizations up-to-date on new research, conferences, funding sources, etc.
- continue to target public health professionals with health and environment messages

B. Provide Networking Opportunities

- connect organizations with similar interests
- connect relevant GLHEP staff and other scientists to organizations
- host a meeting for organizations to meet scientists and other agencies to discuss issues and network.

C. Funding

- explore possibility of GLHEP as a funding agency for community projects (perhaps in collaboration with the Healthy Environments Program at HSPB)

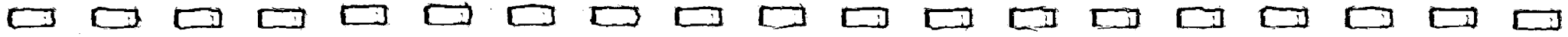
APPENDIX A:
RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS
ON
WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT



ORGANIZATION	MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS	TYPE / SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS/ COMMENTS
<i>Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Ontario</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• general immune system disorders• environmental hypersensitivity• allergies• asthma• women make up 80% of all sufferers - physiological or reporting differences?• children are also higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pesticides (lawn chemicals, agricultural spraying)• petrochemical industry• amounts in food not considered great enough to cause a major reaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• organizations need to be made aware of new research that supports cause-effect relationships• toxicological research does not assess problem• need other ways to assess health effects (eg. epidemiological research and studies of behavioural aspects such as hyperactivity)• need to cross reference studies and look at synergistic effects• need to study the "built environment" (beyond indoor air quality)
<i>Assembly of First Nations (EAGLE Project)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cancer (no specific type is identified)• asthma• skin diseases and rashes• infant health <p>(all based on community's assessment of health problems)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• different for each community, depending upon point sources and perception of hazards in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• data bases related to Native health information / experience that will help them avoid pitfalls• want to network with Native and environment groups so communities can work together to solve problems• considered gathering data on infants and possible effects but decided it was too soon and too specific.
<i>Canadian Federation of University Women</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have passed many resolutions related to: drinking water, managing household wastes, infertility (re: reproductive technology), hazardous waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• not discussed / no consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• resolutions are put forward by individual clubs (137 across Canada) - issues are defined internally• research is carried out in support for a resolution• voting on resolutions takes place at the annual general meeting• no information needs unless specifically requested by club.

ORGANIZATION	MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS	TYPE / SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS / COMMENTS
<i>Federated Women's Institutes of Canada</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health and environment has not been discussed by the organization (possible problems: allergies, asthma, cancer) • two issues are dealt with separately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general information re: health and the environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what are health problems and what is known about them? • what women can do to improve the environment - tips would be helpful • would attend a meeting for information purposes only • videos are useful for southern Ontario in North, the only means of communication amongst group members is through the newsletter and mailings.
<i>Friends of the Earth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has not been discussed by organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has not been discussed by organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not currently have a program related to women's health and the environment.
<i>Great Lakes United / Canadian Environmental Law Association</i> (Sarah Miller reported on both)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developmental effects of toxics (eg on learning) • sexual function / development and toxics • health effects of chronic body burdens to infants in utero and through breast milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persistent toxics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information is crucial! it is lacking in areas of understanding pathways (routes of exposure) as well as subtle effects of toxic contamination • need information that people can use to reduce their own risk (controllable vs non) • need tools for communities (like "No Place to Hide") • feedback from scientific community - consensus on what is and is not known • more targeting to geographical communities, high risk groups (women), and to health professionals • the link between health and environment needs to be forged.

ORGANIZATION	MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS	TYPE / SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS / COMMENTS
<i>Greenpeace</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's health (subtle developmental effects) • breast cancer • community health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persistent toxics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more information on the link between human health and the environment (it is the pivotal point for action, not effects in wildlife) • health risks to children as a focus for action • possibly, GLHEP could provide an article for their up and coming newsletter (being codeveloped with Adrienne Scott of WEED) • GLHEP could provide funding for developing newsletter and human health network.
<i>Infertility Awareness Association of Canada</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "unexplained" infertility and environmental toxins • factors in workplace that affect fertility • male factor infertility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chemicals in the natural environment • things that people work with (eg X-Rays, computers, lab) • eating GL fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information! difficult for people to talk intelligently about the issues because information isn't available or doesn't exist • would like publications, reports, fact sheets for distribution to their membership • wants to be on a mailing list to be kept up-to-date on types of research, findings, conferences • would also like to have GLHEP scientists / representatives attend meetings, conferences • need to do research on male factor infertility, not just female infertility.
<i>International Institute of Concern for Public Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reproductive effects (birth defects, still births, etc) • breast cancer from a women's perspective • cancer in children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people are worried about everything - water, air, all sources • also concerned about the general carelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide follow-up on what has gone on at previous consultation activities - provide opportunities to speak with scientists • ensure that "burden of proof" falls on polluter and not on victims • respond to communities's needs and requests, do not assume them • get communities behind projects by involving them, starting out with low tech approach - then if you find a problem, go in and investigate more closely • don't scare people: inform and involve them.



ORGANIZATION	MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS	TYPE / SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS / COMMENTS
<i>Ontario Farm Women's Network</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• group has not formally addressed issue but is starting to think about the link - perhaps health effects of pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• has not been discussed - possibly pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• want to look at holistic aspects of the environment• would like results of Ontario Farm Family Study• possible options: GLHEP could include article in their newsletter or put information (eg. flyer) into mailout• might be interested in having GLHEP representatives at their winter course in at Kemptville College to discuss issues• would consider sending a couple of women to a meeting if GLHEP can help financially.
<i>Ontario Native Women's Association</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• effects of mercury poisoning in northern communities (stomach upset, dizziness, inability to concentrate, sores in mouth)• children's health• birth defects• effects of breast milk contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• many reasons for health effects (both environmental and lifestyle related)• in north, flooding of areas seen as a major cause of pollution• traditional dietary food sources that have become contaminated• untreated drinking water / chlorinated water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• need information for women and their families on how contaminants are affecting their health - especially research on the health effects of eating fish• relate to native communities, but also health of urban native children re: contamination• improve scientific literacy of native women• Native women want to participate and be heard in community consultations• tap into community to assess problems: support local action and help to empower communities• strong oral tradition & low literacy: information must be provided through workshops, during assemblies, etc. (and should be presented by native women)• inform groups of funding sources (need funding for a staff position to work on health and environment)• would like to be linked to other environment organizations through a network (have been approached by Greenpeace's about the human health network)



ORGANIZATION

MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS

TYPE / SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION

ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS / COMMENTS

Pesticide Action Group - Cambridge

- children's health (allergies, environmental sensitivity, learning disabilities)
- birth defects
- infertility
- emotional health of childbearing women and young mothers

- unnecessary pesticide use for cosmetic reasons
- air, water

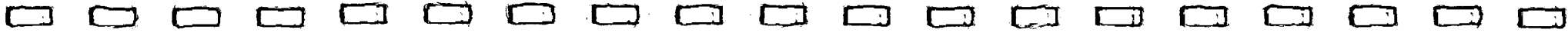
- people aren't making the links between health and environment - think it won't happen to them
- Great Lakes are a "chemical soup", but people consider themselves too far away to be affected by them; only concerned when they are living very close to an industry ("out of sight, out of mind")
- would like to be kept updated on relevant/new studies to support their work - public can be very sceptical)

Raging Grannies - Thunderbay

- children's health
- birth defects, spontaneous abortion
- Native health concerns

- nuclear energy
- toxic contamination from air and water
- mercury poisoning

- want to be on a mailing list
- want data on asthma incidence and prevalence, also birth defects in area (Down's Syndrome), lupus and other diseases that may have an environmental link)
- require social change around use of pesticides and environmental sensitivity as a real disorder, not a psychological problem
- thinks that GLHEP is normalizing birth defects by saying they are no higher than "other industrialized areas" - feels we should be more accurate in reporting
- also, thinks some GHLEP projects (#13, 30 & 38) may be examples of ongoing PhD research
- would like to know of highly recommended NFB films that could be used to provoke discussion
- want good news about the state of health and the environment.



ORGANIZATION

MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS

TYPE / SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION

ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS / COMMENTS

*WEED: Women and Environments,
Education and Development
Foundation*

- much of their work is related to issues of developing countries
- cancer
- developmental effects on children

- organochlorines from bleaching of paper products (eg. sanitary napkins, diapers, etc)
- ozone layer depletion

- funding: a great deal of time is spent filling out grant applications for projects; seed money is needed to carry out basic operations
- interested in networking with other organizations interested in environment, women's issues
- some involvement with Greenpeace in developing a newsletter and human health network for the GL basin
- would like to attend a meeting on women's health and the environment

**APPENDIX B:
NETWORK OF GROUPS RELATED
TO
WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Name of Organization: Allergy and Environmental Health Association of Canada
Address: Toronto
Phone No.: (416) 512-2628 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Ed Lowens, Exec. Dir.
Type of Organization: NGO
Mission: to encourage the reduction of risk factors and encourage avoidance and treatment; to increase knowledge and awareness of environmentally related diseases
Areas of Interest: agriculture; air quality; pesticides; health
Activities: advocating for fair and equitable treatment of affected persons; conferences, info, etc
Membership: 1000
Fee: \$25
Year Founded: 1979
Organizational Structure: charitable org.
Publications: A & EHA Quarterly, 4x per

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Name of Organization: Assembly of First Nations (EAGLE Project)
Address: 67 Clarence St. Suite ____
Ottawa, ON K1N 9K1
Phone No.: (613) 236-0673 *FAX:* (613) 238-5780
Contact Person: Maxine Caldwell (assistant coordinator of EAGLE);
Mission: EAGLE: to assess native populations in GL Basin for the extent of their exposure to environmental contaminants and health risk the exposure entails; increase awareness by conducting an environmental health needs assessment among First Nations in the GL
Areas of Interest: native populations; broad health effects of toxic contaminants
Activities: GIS to track data on Native Health and the environment; currently doing community profiles and then going back to specific areas to collect dietary information

Name of Organization: Canadian Environmental Law Association
Address: 517 College St., Suite 401,
Toronto, ON. M6G 4A2
Phone No.: (416) 960-2284 FAX: (416) 960-9392
Contact Person: Sarah Miller (VP, Executive Director of GLU)
Type of Organization: NGO; funded by Ontario Legal Aid Plan
Mission: to advance law & policy in all environmental areas; particularly toxic substances & pesticides
Areas of Interest: cancer, birth defects, reproductive and developmental effects
Activities: research, publications, education programs, advocacy, encourage public involvement; free legal advisory committee
Membership: 500
Fee: \$18
Year Founded: 1970
Organizational Structure: Board of directors
Publications: The Intervenor - The Newsletter of the Canadian Environmental Law Association - 6x per year

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Name of Organization: Canadian Federation of University Women
Address: 55 Parkdale Ave. Ottawa, ON
Phone No.: (613) 722-8732; FAX: same
Contact Person: Dr. Olga Barrat - Environment Network Director: in Vancouver
(604) 987-2948
Type of Organization: national NGO
Mission: to encourage advanced study by women, excellence in education, etc.
Areas of Interest: scholarships, awards, grants for academic and creative achievement
Activities: lobby, consult and present briefs on public issues; encourage partnership in political process; work toward global understanding and cooperation
Membership: 12,000 women with university degrees across Canada
Fee: \$40-50
Year Founded: 1919
Organizational Structure: 139 clubs across Canada: executive board of directors
Publications: CFUW Journal - 4x per year

Name of Organization: D.E.S. Action Canada / N.W. Ontario / Toronto

Address: D.E.S. Action Canada (National Office)
5890 Monkland Ave., Suite 203
Montreal, Que H4A 1G2
(514) 482-3204 FAX: (514) 482-1445

D.E.S. Action N.W. Ontario
c/o Women's Health Information Network
4A South Court, Suite #7
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2W4
(807) 345-1410

D.E.S. Toronto
Box 1004, Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 1G5
(416) 971-9219

Contact Person: Shirley Simand, Vice President (D.E.S. Action Canada)

Type of Organization: national non-profit consumer organization

Mission: to identify, educate, provide support to and advocate for the people exposed to the drug DES. The organization also works toward the prevention of similar public health problems, particularly in the field of reproductive care.

Areas of Interest: cancer, birth defects, reproductive and developmental effects

Activities: information provision (pamphlets, posters, a documentation centre, audiovisual aids), physician referrals, peer counselling

Membership: 500

Fee: Donations only

Year Founded: 1972

Organizational Structure: Exec. Dir., Pres., V.P., Board of Directors, provincial chapters

Publications: DES Action Canada Newsletter (quarterly), Fertility and Pregnancy Guide
Guide For DES Daughters and Sons, Breast Cancer: Risk, Protection,
Detection and Treatment, Nursing Curriculum

Name of Organization: Federated Women's Institutes of Canada
Address: Box 1030, Guelph, ON N1H 6T1
Phone No.: (519) 767-3510; FAX: (519) 824-02
Contact Person: Anna Jackson (staff person); Glynis Smith (519) 824-0217
Type of Organization: president, VP, Sec, Treasurer (volunteers) - umbrella org; 850 branches; 110 districts; 14 areas
Mission: personal growth and community action
Areas of Interest: current theme: environment (until 1997)
Activities: nutrition, education, scholarships to rural students, conferences (recycling: 1988; community action: 1990; personal environment: 1992; world environment: 1994)
Membership: 18,000 women; mostly rural women
Publications: Min of Ag & Food used to publish for them; will have own publication in September

Name of Organization: Friends of the Earth
Address: 251 Laurier Ave. W., Suite 701, Ottawa
Phone No.: (613) 230-3352 FAX: (613) 232-4352
Contact Person: Susan Tanner, Exec Dir (member of Ottawa Women for a Healthy Planet)
Type of Organization: NGO; incorporated organization with charitable status; loosely affiliated with 20 other FOTE Societies worldwide
Mission: to promote an equitable and sustainable global future - encouraging individual and group action
Areas of Interest: birth defects, reproductive and developmental effects **Activities:** pesticide research, education and control; developing report on sustainable agriculture
Membership: 22,000
Fee: \$25; \$100 org.
Year Founded: 1978
Publications: Earthwords (4x per year)

Name of Organization: Great Lakes United

Address: University of Windsor, Office #3, 400 Huron Lane,
Windsor, ON N9C 2G9

Phone No.: (519) 973-7019 (w) FAX: (519) 973-7085

Contact Person: Mary Ginnebaugh (Staff-Women's Issues)

Type of Organization: Coalition, Network; Intl org. (Can/US)

Mission: To conserve and protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem

Areas of Interest: water quality; air quality; health

Activities: doing health assessment of 12 "high risk" communities in the GL Basin;
contacting women's orgs. along with other types of preventive-type orgs

Membership: 180

Fee: \$20; \$10 org.

Year Founded: 1982

Organizational Structure: intl org. (Can/U.S.)

Publications: The Great Lakes United; 4x per year

Name of Organization: Greenpeace - Great Lakes Health Network

Address: 1017 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60707

National Office
185 Spadina Ave. Toronto ON M5T 2C6
(416) 345-8408 FAX: (416) 345-8462

Contact Person: Joan D'Argo (U.S. contact)

Type of Organization: NGO

Mission:
(Draft Statement) "The Great Lakes Health Network is a diverse network of individuals and organizations whose missions is to build a strong base of educated and informed people who understand the link between the quality of human health and the quality of the environment. By emphasizing prevention, we promote human health and work for a clean environment by influencing public policy to sunset (phase-out) those substances which are especially hazardous to the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Therefore, of immediate concern are the synthetic chemicals that persist or accumulate in living tissues or destroy the Earth's ozone layer because they degrade ecosystem health and threaten human potential".

Areas of Interest: human health is now being addressed as a way to mobilize people around environment issues, especially reproduction and child health; group found that people were not responding to effects on wildlife

Activities: linking and mobilizing women as leaders in health and environmental action: 3 day meeting in Gary, Indiana (June 26-28, 1992); developing a "Human Health Network"; also, codeveloping a newsletter with WEED Foundation

Fee: Canadian National Office - donations; for \$25 and more, supporters receive bimonthly magazine

Name of Organization: Infertility Awareness Association of Canada
Address: 104- 1785 Alta Vista Dr., Ottawa, ON K1G 3Y6
Phone No.: (613) 738-8968 FAX: (613) 738-0159
Contact Person: Trish Maynard, Executive Director
Type of Organization: Nat'l charitable NGO
Mission: to provide assistance, support and education to individuals with infertility concerns
Areas of Interest: infertility; research
Activities: educational programs; guidance and assistance to establish chapters; advocacy; partnership with SOGC & CFAS; producing a 1-hr documentary on infertility
Fee: \$30 indiv; \$50 org
Year Founded: 1989
Organizational Structure: NGO
Publications: Infertility Awareness (5x per year)

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Name of Organization: International Institute of Concern for Public Health
Address: 830 Bathurst St. Toronto, ON M5R 3G1
Phone No.: (416) 533-7351 FAX: (416) 533-7879
Contact Person: Dr. Rosalie Bertell
Type of Organization: NGO; nonprofit
Mission: To oppose hazards to human health (pollution, esp. nuclear industry)
Areas of Interest: community health and the environment, hazardous waste
Activities: scientific services to indivs., citizen groups, labour union and govt agencies;
Membership: board of directors (8)
Year Founded: 1984
Organizational Structure: board
Publications: Int'l Perspectives in Public Health (annual)

Name of Organization: La Leche League Canada (Central & Southern Ontario)
Address: RR No.2, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0
Phone No.: (416) 679-4939 (h) *FAX:*
Contact Person: Eileen Shea (professional liaison)
Type of Organization: NGO; volunteer
Mission: to promote safe breast feeding
Areas of Interest: breast feeding; specifically, contaminants in breast milk; ways that women can reduce their exposure; effects of breast milk contamination on infant development
Activities: training leaders, running groups, professional links, publications, phone counselling
Membership: 3145; 639 accredited leaders; 278 groups; mostly breast feeding women
Fee: \$30/yr
Year Founded: 1959
Organizational Structure: board of directors; chairman of leaders
Publications: info sheets, manuals, "Breast Feeding Answer Book"

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Name of Organization: Nuclear Awareness Project
Address: Box 2331, Oshawa, ON M5R 3G1
Phone No.: (416) 725-1565 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Irene Koch
Type of Organization: NGO
Mission: raise awareness about nuclear issues and energy alternatives
Areas of Interest: health effects of radioactive pollution; childhood leukaemia rates; cancer incidence rates; communities-at-risk; tracking of terminated pregnancy outcomes (for birth defects); other epidemiological data
Activities: research; public education; advocacy to increase health effects monitoring of Durham Region
Membership: indivs: 300-400; orgs:100
Fee: \$20 (indiv); \$30 (org)
Year Founded: 1970
Organizational Structure: volunteers; 1/2 staff member
Publications: Durham Region Working Group Report (regarding increased health monitoring effects)

Name of Organization: Ontario Farm Women's Network
Address: RR1 Iroquois, ON K0E 1K0
Phone No.: (613) 652-2097 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Corey Martin, Pres
Type of Organization: Nonprofit
Mission: to address agricultural issues as they relate to women
Areas of Interest: varied
Activities: newsletter, conferences, research projects with University of Guelph, etc
Membership: 300 + individuals; 16 farm women's groups, 8 associate memberships
Fee: \$30
Organizational Structure: volunteer board of directors
Publications: Ontario Farm Women's Network Newsletter - bimonthly

Name of Organization: Ontario Native Women's Association
Address: 115 North May St., Suite 101, Thunderbay , ON P7C 3N8
Phone No.: (807) 623-3442 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Angele Cormier, Health Policy Analyst
Type of Organization: NGO; native women's advocacy
Mission: to advocate for and support native women in Ontario
Areas of Interest: family violence, health, education, race relations, environment (indirectly)
Activities: conferences (last fall - health effects of environmental contaminants), Aboriginal Health Policy for Ontario (in development); long term care for elders (effects of contaminated fish); resource sharing, developing a training facility for native women
Membership: 63 "locals" (native women's groups on and off reserves across Ontario
Fee: none
Year Founded: 1972
Organizational Structure: central office (18 pd staff); locals
Publications: "Breaking Free" - The Family Violence Report; other info supplied to locals

Name of Organization: Pesticide Action Group - Cambridge
Address: 130 Concession St. Cambridge, ON N1R 2H2
Phone No.: (519) 622-0835 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Bonnie Walter
Type of Organization: NGO; volunteer
Mission: to stop the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes
Areas of Interest: pesticides; human health; children; women's fear and concern over own infertility
Activities: speaking (to women predominantly); displays; lobbying
Membership: informal
Year Founded: 1989
Publications: information sheets; in the process of creating a newsletter

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Name of Organization: Raging Grannies - Thunderbay
Address: 639 Hunt St., Thunderbay, ON P7B 2B2
Phone No.: (807) 344-0503 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Anne Griffith
Type of Organization: NGO; informal group
Mission: to protect children (and grandchildren) of the future
Areas of Interest: nuclear free zones; pulp and paper mill dumping; Native mercury poisoning
Activities: public education, awareness; workshops, fairs, displays, etc
Membership: informal: 6-8 members
Organizational Structure: stems from original Vancouver group
Publications: Vancouver Newsletter; Cookbook of Songs

Name of Organization: Reproductive Toxicology Group
Address: c/o Dr. Warren Foster, EHC
Phone No.: 957-8029 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Warren Foster
Type of Organization: scientific/clinical advisory and networking group
Mission: to set up an expert panel on reproductive issues (?)
Areas of Interest: reproductive toxicology; endpoints/outcomes; determining the extent of problem in Canada; early menopause; sociological, political, economic implications of research findings
Activities: meetings; informal information sharing; want to communicate scientific information to public, each other and colleagues
Membership: 10+ scientists; also want to include community reps
Year Founded: 1992

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Name of Organization: WEED: Women and Environments, Education and Development
Address: 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON M5S 2R4
Phone No.: (416) 516-2379 *FAX:*
Contact Person: Kim Pearson; Miriam Wyman (Canadian rep to UN conference)
Type of Organization: NGO
Mission: to conduct research on issues relating to women and planning
Areas of Interest: chlorination of tampons, sanitary pads, diapers; promoting problem of toxic dumping in the Great Lakes; overpopulation
Activities: lobbying, researching and providing information
Membership: 1000 worldwide
Fee: \$20 (indiv); \$30 (institution)
Year Founded: 1976
Organizational Structure: board consists of 12 volunteer members; usually 1 staff person
Publications: Women and Environments (quarterly); Whitewash

Name of Organization: World Wildlife Fund

Address: 1250 Twenty-Fourth St. NW
Washington, DC 20037-1175 USA

Phone No.: (202) 293-4800 FAX: (202) 293-9211

Contact Person: Theo Colburn

Type of Organization:

Mission:

Areas of Interest:

Activities:

Membership:

Fee:

Year Founded:

Organizational Structure:

Publications: