



September 22, 2003

Dr Irena Buka
Child Health Clinic
Misericordia Hospital
16940 - 87th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
TR5 4H5

RE: Response to Advices to Council 03-01 and 03-02

Dear Dr. Buka,

On behalf of the Council, I thank you and the entire Expert Advisory Board for Children's Health and the Environment (EAB), for the advice you have provided to Council. The Board's advice and guidance on the work of the Cooperative Agenda for Children's Health and the Environment in North America is both valuable and much appreciated. We apologize for the long delay in responding to your advice and look forward to closer cooperation between the Trilateral Team for Children's Health and the Environment and the Expert Advisory Board.

The Council also looks forward to hearing your views as part of the review on the implementation of the Cooperative Agenda in 2004, as agreed to in Council Resolution 02-06. After only one year of implementation of the Cooperative Agenda, the CEC's work on children's health and the environment has demonstrated that it is possible and advantageous for us to work trilaterally on this issue. Specifically, the work on children's health and the environment indicators is very encouraging and will be a useful pilot to the international commitments made in Johannesburg on developing indicators.

Your advice on the education and training of health care professionals on children's health and the environment provides many practical ideas for consideration. Taking into account the limited CEC budget, we invite the EAB to explore with the trilateral team the best way to seek outside partners and funding sources in order to help implement it, as well as specific activities that will have the most concrete impact within the trilateral scope of the CEC. We are aware that you have been exploring this topic further in recent months and look forward to future discussions between the EAB and the trilateral team on this topic.

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As you know, training professionals to prevent, diagnose, manage and treat environmentally related illnesses in children is a critical need throughout North America. I understand that because of the interest expressed by the EAB, two participants from Mexico are able to attend the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation meeting for healthcare practitioners on pesticides exposures. This is an ideal way to use the limited resources of the CEC to provide opportunities for healthcare practitioners to learn about issues related to children's health and the environment. Similar arrangements will help immeasurably in building capacity for health care providers in all three countries.

Your advice regarding working with the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) program is helpful and insightful and we anticipate continuation of excellent working relationships between these two CEC programs. The SMOC program is eager to coordinate with the Children's Health and the Environment program wherever appropriate. You may be especially pleased to know that SMOC's Lindane Task Force has named two representatives on children's health and the environment to participate in their work.

As you know, the CEC was instrumental in bringing international attention to the National Children's Study as demonstrated by the very successful meeting in Baltimore. We are pleased to see the establishment of the International Working Group for the National Children's Study, that resulted from that meeting.

Thank you again for your advice and for your diligence in providing it. The voluntary nature of your commitment to children's environmental health, combined with your expertise in these matters, has been instrumental in guiding the work of the CEC, and has been a great contribution to the momentum of international work on children's health and the environment.

Yours sincerely,



José Manuel Bulás Montoro
Alternate Representative for Mexico

cc: Norine Smith, Alternate Representative for Canada
Judith E. Ayres, Alternate Representative for the United States
William Kennedy, CEC Executive Director
Expert Advisory Board on Children's Health and the Environment
Children's Health and the Environment Trilateral Team