



Overview of the CEC's Project on Children's Health and the Environment in North America

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PARALLEL ACCORDS

NAAEC

**North American
Agreement on
Environmental
Cooperation (1994)**

NAFTA

**North American
Free Trade
Agreement
(1993)**



Integrated approaches to environmental protection

Relationships between environment, trade and economy



CEC STRUCTURE

CEC COUNCIL

Cabinet-level

Canada: David
Anderson

Mexico: Victor
Lichtinger

US: Christine
Whitman

CEC SECRETARIAT

Program Areas:

- Pollutants & Health:
SMOC, CEH, PRTR, Air
- Biodiversity
- Law and Policy
- Environment, Economy, Trade

Citizens' submissions (Art. 14/15)

NAFEC

JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPAC)

Five citizens from each
country

Development of the Children's Health and the Environment Initiative



- Political commitment
- Convening stakeholders, scoping the issues
- Defining initial priorities
- Establishing mechanisms
- Developing cooperative agenda
- Periodic assessment of results, needs, priorities

Project Highlights

- Council announces new initiative on CEH (June 1999)
- Toronto Symposium (May 2000)
 - 100 participants from the 3 countries
 - expert presentations, public discussion on CEH issues of concern in North America
- Council Resolution 00-10 (June 2000)

Council Resolution 00-10 on Children's Health and the Environment

- initial focus on asthma/respiratory disease, lead, other toxics
- integration of CEH into existing CEC work
- public education, outreach, access to information
- facilitating scientific exchange
- formation of Expert Advisory Board
- development of cooperative agenda

Project Highlights *(continued)*

- Trilateral CEH Team (2000)
- National Workshop in Mexico (June 2000)
- Council Resolution 01-04, Expert Board Terms of Reference (June 2001)
- Formation of Expert Advisory Board (October 2001)
- Inventory of National, Bilateral and Trilateral Activities (November 2001)

Project Highlights *(continued)*

- Trilateral Workshop (November 2001)
- Preparation of draft Cooperative Agenda (February 2002)
- Joint JPAC-Expert Advisory Board Meeting, 7 March 2002

Building the Cooperative Agenda for Children's Health and the Environment in North America

COUNCIL:

"commits to working together as partners to develop a cooperative agenda to protect children from environmental threats with the overall objective of reducing human-made pressures on children's health...

- Council Resolution 00-10

Elements of the Cooperative Agenda

How were the topics selected?

- Asthma and respiratory disease
 - of concern in all 3 countries, potential benefits of collaboration
- Lead poisoning/other effects of lead
 - of concern in all 3 countries, well known risks, preventable
- Effects of other toxics substances
 - of concern in all 3 countries, potential to build on Sound Management of Chemicals work

Elements of the Cooperative Agenda

- Risk assessment and economic valuation
 - emerging tools/methods for decision-making, benefits of sharing expertise
- Strengthening the knowledge base
 - importance of information for sound decision-making, scientific understanding
- Public information, outreach, education
 - awareness, access to information are key for informed actions to prevent/reduce threats to child health

Public consultation on the draft Cooperative Agenda

Aim is to obtain and explore:

- Public/stakeholder input on proposed actions, priorities;
- Additional ideas, suggestions; and
- Opportunities for partnerships, synergies

Next Steps

- > Public review, written comments by 22 March
- > Revised version to be prepared taking into account comments received
- > Final document to be available for possible consideration by Council (June 2002)
- > To be periodically updated based on progress achieved, emerging issues and priorities