



summer • 2011

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
– the National Voice of Physicians on the Environment and Health

CAPE Membership Reaches 5000!

10-fold Growth in Five Years

CAPE'S MEMBERSHIP HAS PASSED THE 5,000 mark – a ten-fold increase from 2006 when the number of individuals supporting the organization stood at 450.

“It's been a wonderful few years for our organization and we're extremely grateful to our new members,” said CAPE Executive Director Gideon Forman. “They've enabled us to achieve great victories for the environment.”

CAPE Chair, Dr. John Howard, attributes some of the expansion to the group's philosophy and mandate. “We always advocate for health in its broadest context, not just the health of an individual but the health of the individual and their environment,” said Dr. Howard. “And we always base this advocacy on the best scientific evidence.”

The organization is also attractive due to its collaborative approach. In recent years, CAPE has partnered with such high-profile charities as the Canadian Cancer Society, the Lung Association, and the Asthma Society of Canada. It also runs a monthly blog, *Docs Talk*, with the David Suzuki Foundation (davidsuzuki.org/blogs/docs-talk).

CAPE has benefited from its high-profile campaigns to ban lawn pesticides, close asbestos

mines, and shut coal-fired electricity plants. Thousands of doctors and concerned citizens joined the organization to support these initiatives.

In 2008, CAPE led the campaign to ban lawn pesticides across Ontario – which resulted in the most health-protective legislation of its kind in North America. It also helped to win province-wide pesticide bans in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

And in 2010, its campaign to shut Ontario's coal plants scored a partial victory when the government announced it was closing four coal units – the equivalent of removing up to 2 million automobiles from the road.

Newfoundland MD Turns Tragedy into Pesticide Activism

Ian Simpson, MD

I FIRST GOT CONCERNED ABOUT PESTICIDES AND HEALTH IN THE 1970s when a patient of mine delivered a stillborn child a month before her due date. We could find no cause; but she knew the cause. She was out berry picking with colleagues when a spray-plane flew overhead and doused them with pesticides. Six women in the group were pregnant and they all lost their babies. She was the last.

It was the Ontario College of Family Physicians Pesticides Literature Review in 2004 that got me speaking out publicly for legislation on cosmetic pesticides. For many years, individuals in St John's and

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HEALTH FUSION 2011

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**International speaker line-up includes: Dr. Rick Smith, PhD
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Presented by:
Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



CAPE President, Jean Zigby, MD

I AM A MONTREAL-BASED FAMILY PHYSICIAN and palliative care specialist, but tonight I sit here typing in an office of the Eeyou Istchee Chisasibi Hospital, on the northeastern edge of James Bay, where I work for a week every couple of months. It is a privilege to work with First Nations northern communities where I can learn how essential it is to promote greater understanding and respect for biological and ecological limits in the practice of medicine.

One of my hopes in joining CAPE a decade ago was to help network Francophone and Anglophone physicians concerned about environmental determinants of health. I was convinced physicians in Québec working on environmental issues could both inspire and be supported by CAPE members elsewhere in Canada. With the joining of Dr. Éric Notebaert to the Board, this is becoming a reality. A respected emergentologist and academic, Dr. Notebaert demonstrates the passion for applying principles of sustainability to both medicine and the greater community. In the last year, CAPE has already taken a front line role in Québec on such debates as active transport, asbestos and uranium mining, and greening health care.

CAPE has been active in the chrysotile asbestos debate for years through the efforts of outgoing president Dr. Kapil Khatter, and over the last months we brought it home with a Léger Marketing poll. We asked Québécois(e) what they thought of their provincial government investing \$58 million in a loan to re-open the bankrupt Jeffrey Mine in the Eastern Townships Region. The poll showed 76% oppose the loan and 65% want to stop subsidizing the sale of this toxic material and foster a more diverse economy for the region. We took out a full page ad in the respected *Le Devoir* newspaper asking the Health Minister

**Dr Bolduc,
76 % des Québécois
disent NON
au financement
de la mine d'amiante
Jeffrey d' Asbestos.**

En tant que ministre de la Santé et médecin, vous avez le devoir de protéger la santé publique.

Dites à Jean Charest que le financement de la mine Jeffrey est inacceptable et immoral.

Le consensus médical est clair : « l'utilisation sécuritaire » de l'amiante est impossible. Seul le lobby de l'amiante chrysotile prétend le contraire, un point de vue qui n'est appuyé par aucune organisation médicale réputée. L'utilisation de toute forme d'amiante doit être interdite.

Le lobby de l'amiante fait de la désinformation. Votre devoir médical et votre responsabilité ministérielle vous obligent à dénoncer le mensonge parce qu'il met en danger la santé et la vie des gens.

ON COMPTE SUR VOUS !

« Arrêtez d'exporter la mort fabriquée au Québec »



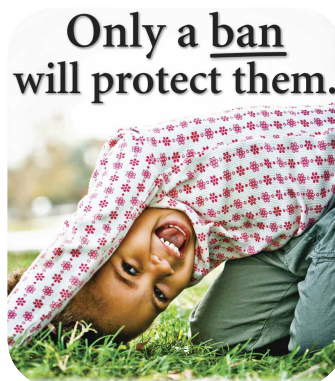
**DITES NON AU FINANCEMENT
PAR VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT
DE LA MINE D'AMIANTE JEFFREY.**

Thanks to CAPE members, the ad above ran as a full page in the Québec newspaper, *Le Devoir*. It asks the Québec government to end subsidies for the Jeffrey asbestos mine.

and Premier to fulfill their responsibilities and protect public health by refusing to grant the loan.

Chrysotile asbestos mined in Canada is sold principally to India where it places workers at increased risk of developing cancers and respiratory disorders. Activists throughout the world are watching closely to see if CAPE and its many allies can convince the government that investing in “exporting death” does not make long term ethical, political and financial sense.

Jean Zigby, MD, CAPE President



**Lawn & Garden Pesticides:
Reducing Harm
ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**

This 10 minute DVD sets out the scientific evidence linking common household pesticides to a variety of serious illnesses. It also offers information on safe lawn-care alternatives. Excellent for showing at public meetings or for educating local politicians. To order your copy, please contact Farrah Khan Farrah@cape.ca



ECO-LEADERS' CORNER

Eco-Leaders' Corner is a column that features news for, about, and from CAPE Eco-Leaders.

WHAT A FANTASTIC YEAR CAPE HAS HAD! Fifty individuals or groups have now stepped up to become Eco-Leaders. Launched in January 2009, Eco-Leaders support the long term vision of CAPE with gifts of \$1,000 or more.

If you'd like to become an Eco-Leader, give a gift of stock, or make a donation in someone's honour, please call Patty Porretta, Fundraising Manager, collect at (416) 306 2273.



CAPE Eco-Leader, Éric Notebaert, MD

Why I Became an Eco-Leader

by Éric Notebaert, MD

DEUX DEGRÉS CELSIUS DE PLUS. DEUX DEGRÉS de plus, et 2 à 3 milliards de gens sur la planète risquent fort de manquer d'eau. Deux degrés Celsius de plus et la survie de millions de gens sera menacée car les glaciers des Andes et de l'Himalaya vont disparaître. Deux degrés Celsius de plus et la désertification menacera directement la survie de plus de 2 milliards de personnes dans les 40 pays les plus pauvres de la planète. Deux degrés Celsius de plus et des centaines de millions de personnes de plus souffriront de la malaria dans le monde... Cela est à mon sens la menace la plus sérieuse à la santé et à la vie humaine. Comme êtres humains et médecins, nous avons le devoir d'agir. Dans le futur, l'Humanité devra être plus solidaire, ou elle ne sera plus. Et ceci commence par des gestes au quotidien, petits ou grands, mais sans relâche. Car il y a urgence en la demeure, notre planète.

TWO DEGREES CELSIUS OR MORE. TWO DEGREES celsius or more, and 2 to 3 million people on earth may not have enough water. Two degrees Celsius

or more and the survival of millions of people will be threatened as the glaciers of the Andes and the Himalayas will disappear. Two degrees Celsius or more and the world's desertification will threaten the survival of more than 2 billion people in the 40 poorest countries on earth. Two degrees Celsius or more and millions more will suffer from malaria... I think that this is the most serious threat to health and human life. As human beings and physicians, we have a moral duty to do something. We need more solidarity or Humanity as we understand it today will disappear. And I think we have to work on this every day, as there is a real urgency if we want to save our planet.

MD Turns Tragedy into Pesticide Activism ...continued from page 1

Corner Brook have asked for protective legislation, but to no avail. Municipalities in Newfoundland do not have authority to ban these poisons.

In mid 2009, a group of concerned citizens met to re-engage on this issue. Further meetings linked our small group in Corner Brook with advocates in St John's, and CAP-NL (the Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides – Newfoundland and Labrador) was born.

With the help of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, a poll was carried out in the fall of 2009 which showed a large majority of residents favoured a ban on cosmetic pesticides.

In mid February 2011, we organized a public forum at City Hall in St John's and CAPE's Executive Director, Gideon Forman, was our keynote speaker. This meeting got a lot of media attention and we are now meeting with decision-makers to discuss legislation for the government to present to the House of Assembly.

We are hopeful these discussions will result in a law to protect all Newfoundlanders from harmful pesticides.

To get involved with this campaign, please visit:
pesticidealternativesnl.wordpress.com

The following very generous people donated \$1,000 or more to CAPE's Eco-Leaders circle of support.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EACH ONE!

- Dr. John Asch • Mrs. Winifrede Burry • Dr. Scott Daley • Dr. Richard Denton • Dr. Bradley J. Dibble • Mrs. Elsie Dollekamp • Dr. Raquel Feroe
- Dr. Scott Findlay • Dr. Leigh Fraser-Roberts • Dr. Lee Ann Gallant
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- Dr. Trish Van Boekel and Mr. Dave Sheldon
- Dr. Georgina Wilcock • Mrs. Helen Zinkargue
- ... and ten anonymous donors.

ECO FRIENDS This feature section contains a brief synopsis of a group that shares CAPE's basic perspectives.



THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™
When you can't breathe, nothing else matters.™

The Ontario Lung Association

The LUNG ASSOCIATION BEGAN MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO TO HELP eradicate tuberculosis (TB) when it was a number one killer. Since then, the organization has broadened its scope to include asthma, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Lung Association programs focus on disease prevention, disease management, and the effects of smoking and air quality on lung health. Clean air is important for everyone, especially those with respiratory health issues.

A leader in lung health, the Ontario Lung Association assists those with lung disease through a toll free Helpline 1-888-344-LUNG (5864), which is staffed by certified respiratory educators. They also provide free educational resources, many of which can be found online at www.on.lung.ca. Each year, the association contributes nearly \$1 million to lung health research being carried out in Ontario and Canada.

The Ontario Lung Association is pleased to partner with those working to make breathing matter each and every day.

CAPE
ACKNOWLEDGES,
WITH GRATITUDE,
THE GENEROSITY
OF OUR FUNDERS:



Alterna Savings
Canadian Auto Workers
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Health & Environment Education & Research Foundation (CHEER)
Ontario College of Family Physicians
Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust

Over 5,100 individual CAPE members

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"We would like to acknowledge the work of our volunteer webmaster, Jane Will, for her many years of dedication to CAPE.

THANK YOU, JANE!"

I would like to support CAPE for a healthier environment!

Last Name/First Name Dr. Ms. Mr. Miss Mrs. Other

Address City Province Postal Code

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DONATIONS Single Gifts \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 (this makes you an Eco-Leader!) Other \$

Monthly Gifts \$5 \$15 \$30 \$85 (this makes you an Eco-Leader!) Other \$ per month

My cheque is made out to the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), or marked "VOID" for monthly donations.

VISA MASTERCARD Card # Expiry Date Signature

I would like a tax receipt for my donation. I understand that this donation will only be used for research and education. My cheque is made out to the Canadian Health and Environment Education and Research Foundation (CHEER).

Incorporated physicians can write off CAPE membership as a business expense.

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