



summer • 2012

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

## CAPE Cleans Your Air, Shuts Two Coal Units

ON DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> 2011, CAPE'S ANTI-COAL campaign was successful in witnessing the closure of two coal units at the Nanticoke coal-burning plant – formerly Canada's largest polluter.

Ontario is on-track to close all of the province's coal plants by 2014, but CAPE has been working closely with health groups – including the Asthma Society of Canada, the Ontario Lung Association, and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario – to push the government to close them sooner. "We have enough coal-free electricity in Ontario to keep the lights on," explains CAPE's Executive Director, Gideon Forman. "We're delighted two more coal units have been closed, but we should close all of Ontario's coal plants. Doing so would save thousands of people from serious illness."

Three million Canadians suffer from asthma and it is the number one chronic disease among children. "We all need clean air, but for some of us poor air quality and smog alerts can be life threatening," says Noah Farber, Executive Director of the National Asthma Patient Alliance at the Asthma Society of Canada. "We have the technology and the expertise to ramp up emissions-free renewable energy and focus on conservation instead of relying on dirty coal to produce power."

Pollution from coal plants doesn't only exacerbate asthma, those plumes of smoke are also connected



to COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), heart disease and neurological illness.

CAPE continues to push for improved air quality across Canada by urging governments to phase out coal for good. "Thanks to action taken by CAPE members, we've sent over 2,000 letters to Prime Minister Harper asking him to close all of Canada's coal plants," says CAPE Campaigner, Farrah Khan. "There's no getting around it. Coal kills and if we want to protect Canadians from unnecessary pollution, we have to switch to renewable energy sources."

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## Thank You for Supporting CAPE's BC Pesticide Ban Campaign!

**SINCE WE LAST UPDATED YOU, CAPE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY WORKING TO BAN LAWN AND GARDEN PESTICIDES ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA. THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS!**

To gauge public opinion on the issue, the B.C. government in 2011 invited citizens to fill-out an on-line survey. CAPE urged supporters to endorse the ban by completing the survey and by January, 2012 the government received a record-breaking 8,700 submissions – about 70% of whom supported the ban! As well, the Legislature invited CAPE board member Dr. Cathy Vakil – one of Canada's authorities on pesticides and health – to address the Committee directly. Dr. Vakil presented the latest science showing these poisons are linked to cancer.

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CAPE Gold Eco-Leaders, Dr. John Howard  
and Dr. Nicole le Riche

## Why I Became an Eco-Leader

by Dr. John Howard

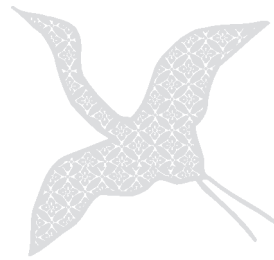
I WASN'T ALWAYS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST. In 1995 I had an “ah-hah” moment when I realized that the world was going down the wrong path. As a physician and professor, I thought I could make a difference. Since then, I live always considering my environmental impact and always trying to incorporate awareness of the environment in my teaching.

I joined CAPE in 2003. I was impressed how CAPE had the values that were closest to mine – environmental integrity and honesty, and always recognizing that real health depends on a healthy environment.

As a long-time Board Member, campaigner and donor, I have witnessed CAPE champion pesticide bans across the country. I'm now confident that over the next five years, CAPE will lead the country to create a nation-wide ban of the cosmetic use of pesticides. This will free Canadians from the health risks linked to these chemicals including cancer, reproductive problems, and neurological diseases.

Supporting CAPE on the organizational front and as an Eco-Leader provides me with opportunities to practice preventive medicine that go beyond caring for the health of one patient at a time and take an active role in protecting our communities by protecting the overall health of our planet.

That's why it's key for people to step up and become Eco-Leaders. This is why my wife, Dr. Nicole le Riche, and I have increased our support to the Eco-Leader Gold Level.



## ECO-LEADERS' CORNER

CAPE'S ECO-LEADERS SUPPORT THE LONG-TERM VISION OF CAPE with gifts of \$5,000 (Gold), \$2,500 (Silver) or \$1,000 (Bronze).

**If you'd like to become an Eco-Leader, give a gift of stock, or name CAPE in your will,** please call our Fundraising Director, Michael Pastore, collect at 416-306-2273.



### The following very generous people donated to CAPE's ECO-LEADERS CIRCLE OF SUPPORT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EACH ONE!

#### GOLD LEVEL \$5,000

Dr. Richard Denton | Dr. John Howard and Dr. Nicole le Riche

#### SILVER LEVEL \$2,500

Dr. Bradley J. Dibble | Mrs. Elsie Dollekamp | Dr. Jim Hollingworth | Ms. Amelia J. Humphries | Mr. Leonard Schein | Ms. Alison Scott Butler and Dr. Gregory Butler | Dr. Donna Sutherland | Ms. Claire F. Kerrigan

#### BRONZE LEVEL \$1,000

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To drive home CAPE's message, Executive Director Gideon Forman traveled to Victoria to hold in-person meetings with Environment Minister Terry Lake, Opposition Leader Adrian Dix, and Pesticide Committee Chair, Bill Bennett.

"We told Minister Lake the health community – including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Lung Association – wants the B.C. ban to be the most health-protective in North America," said Forman.

CAPE also spearheaded a major pro-ban ad campaign and, in conjunction with the Cancer society, released polling showing the legislation is supported by more than 70% of Vancouver residents.

"The poll was extraordinary because it showed near-identical support for the ban among Liberal, New Democrat, and Conservative-leaning voters," said Forman. "I'm very optimistic because there's now a consensus among people of all political stripes that the ban is a good thing."

**NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE IN CANADA, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO SEND B.C. PREMIER CHRISTY CLARK A ONE-SENTENCE E-MAIL: "I SUPPORT A BAN ON LAWN AND GARDEN PESTICIDES." THE PREMIER'S E-MAIL IS: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)**



**Toxic lawn chemicals threaten our kids. That's why health and environment authorities want them banned.**



CAPE President and Eco-Leader, Dr. Jean Zigby

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AS I TRIED MY BEST TO ENJOY THE LATEST ROUND OF BLISSFULLY warm weather wafting through Canada this March, my daughter looked around at the budding plants and chirping birds and asked me, "Was this OK?"

After a moment of wonder at what that question meant to an eleven year old, I chose to reply that even environmental upheavals like climate change were bound to bring occasional gifts, like a sweet summer day when we usually have slush. Having a father who talks frequently and openly about environmental issues has often led her to ask for signs of hope that her future isn't already lost. She asked for greater details of hopeful changes.

Her questions hinted at the legacy of anxiety I, her mother and the last several generations have bequeathed to her. This same anxiety seems weekly magnified by news of habitat loss, and abdication of government responsibility with respect to Canada's natural wealth. As much as she needed to feel the wind, trees and sun, she needed to feel they would always be there.

Thanks to the work that CAPE and many other excellent organizations do, I was able to confidently say that there was much to be hopeful for, that there would always be places for her to play outside if she looked for them, and people waiting for her to help protect them when she was ready.

With the cold weather returning for Earth Day, a quarter million Quebecers gathered in a massive, peaceful rally in Montreal for the Earth and our need to steward her to maintain the gifts of her services. Youth and elders and everyone in between appeared to share the love and anxiety my daughter does for her world, and were determined to show it. Like my daughter, they demanded hope. Like all CAPE's supporters, they demanded action.

Jean Zigby, MD, CAPE President

# JOIN US in welcoming CAPE's new Honorary Board!

Jan Kasperski CEO, Ontario College of Family Physicians

Bruce Lourie President, Ivey Foundation

Marilyn McHarg Executive Director, Médecins San Frontières Canada

David Miller Counsel, Aird & Berlis, former Mayor, City of Toronto

James Orbinski OC, MSC, MD, MA, Chair and Professor in Global Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Peter Robinson CEO, David Suzuki Foundation

"Since the ban on cosmetic pesticide use here, I have noticed a marked increase in butterflies in my garden."

Jean Grieve, CAPE member, Oakville ON.

## CAPE VICTORIES *Thanks to you!*

Here are a few examples of what you've helped us achieve:

**2008** Ontario pesticide ban

**2009** New Brunswick pesticide ban

**2010** Permanent closure of 4 Ontario coal-fired units

**2010** Nova Scotia pesticide ban

**2011** Newfoundland and Labrador pesticide ban

**2011** Permanent closure of 2 Ontario coal-fired units

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



Canadian Auto Workers  
Canadian Cancer Society  
Canadian Health & Environment Education & Research Foundation (CHEER)  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Canadian Union of Public Employees



Dianne Saxe  
Gencon Foundation  
McLean Foundation  
Nature's Path  
Ontario College of Family Physicians  
Ontario Lung Association



Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust  
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Tides Canada  
Over 5,500 individual CAPE members

Canadian Association of  
**Physicians**  
for the  
**Environment**



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*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.....

Telephone..... Email.....

**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.**

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
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