



Canadian Association of
Physicians
for the
Environment

Coal Plant Phase-out Produced Health Benefits for Ontario

For Immediate Release

Sept. 21, 2015

Calgary— Albertans should know that the phase-out of coal-fired power plants in Ontario and south of the border has been associated with significant improvements in air quality and human health for Ontario residents. This is the message contained in the submission made by three health organizations – **the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), The Lung Association of AB & NWT, and the Asthma Society of Canada** - to Alberta’s Climate Change Advisory Panel today.

“Between 2003 and 2012, sulphur dioxide emissions in Ontario were cut almost in half” **Dr. Joe Vipond, emergency room physician and CAPE member**, offered. “The closure of the coal-plants was a big part of those reductions”.

Figure 1, lifted from Ontario’s most recent air quality report, illustrates how coal plants (electricity utilities) contributed to those reductions.

Noah Farber, Acting President & CEO, Asthma Society of Canada

noted, “These emission reductions directly relate to reductions in air levels of both sulphur dioxide and fine particulate matter in Ontario”.

Figures 2 and 3, also drawn from Ontario’s most recent air quality report, show strong downward trends in the levels of the two common air pollutants over the same period of time.

“These air quality improvements have translated into significant health benefits for Ontario residents” offered **Leigh Allard, President & CEO, The Lung Association, AB & NWT**.

Toronto Public Health has reported that there were 23% fewer premature deaths and 41% fewer hospital admissions related to air pollution in Toronto in 2010 than they were in the year 2000.

“They had 400 fewer premature deaths and 2400 fewer hospital admissions from air pollution in the City of Toronto, in 2010, then they did in 2000” explained **Kim Perrotta, Executive Director, CAPE**.

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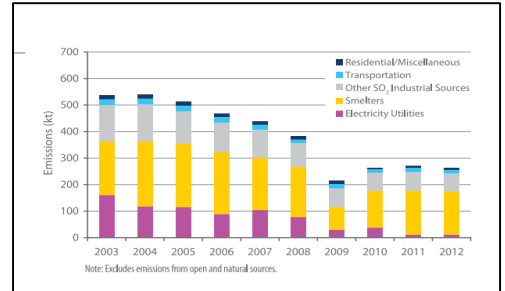


Figure 1: Annual Emissions of Sulphur Dioxide, Different Sectors, Ontario, 2003-2012

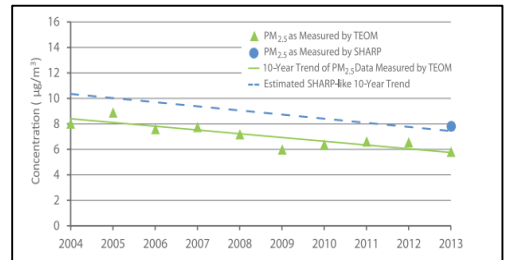


Figure 2: Annual Air Levels of Sulphur Dioxide, Selected Sites, Ontario, 2004-2013

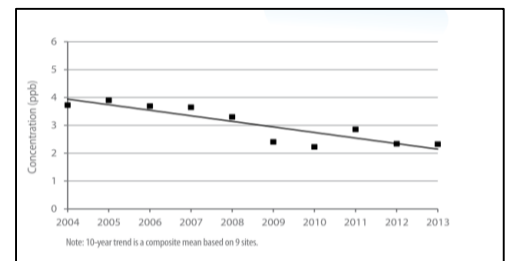


Figure 3: Annual Air Levels of Fine Particulate Matter, Selected Sites, Ontario 2004-2013