

Presidents Office

November 30, 2011

Mrs. Rohini Peris, President
Mr. Michel Gaudet, Vice-President
Environmental Health Association of Québec
6 Trianon
Dollard-des-Ormeaux
Québec H9A 2H8

**Re: Ref. No. C2079-11
Notice of Request for handicap status of environmental sensitivities
According to the Québec Charter of Human Rights**

Mrs. President,
Mr. Vice-President,

On behalf of Mr. Gaétan Cousineau, President of the Québec Human Rights and Children's Rights Commission, I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 21, 2011 regarding the above-mentioned subject. Please rest assured that your letter has been brought to the President's attention. We thank you for having brought this matter to our attention.

The definition of the word 'handicap' in the Québec Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and its interpretation by the courts, upon which we base our own decisions, are sufficiently broad to be applied to people suffering from environmental sensitivities. The Commission has put much effort into ensuring that this definition be very general in order to protect and defend the rights of as many people as possible. Therefore, our approach is not handicap-specific in our notices aimed at improving recognition of human rights. It is rather in the course of our investigations that we rule on particular situations, according to the circumstances of each one.

Moreover, the Commission does offer to employers and decision-makers expert advice as well as support for any matter concerning reasonable accommodations.

Please be assured that this information will be conveyed to the appropriate departments so they will be made aware of the issue.

Sincerely,



Josée Morin
Assistant to the President

JM/at

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