



Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec  
Environmental Health Association of Québec

## ECO-JOURNAL

August 2021

### News from ASEQ-EHAQ

Dear Members and Friends,

It is August already – and we have had an eventful summer with our country burning up, new actions to be taken and how we are fraught with questions, such as, how do we protect ourselves from the smoke of the wildfires – among other things?

We write to you from Saint-Sauveur, surrounded by forest and beautiful mountains. For the first time we are witnessing the trees doing poorly – and the locals attest to this too. This is not happening due to an illness, but from the lack of precipitation. There has not been enough snow and rain, turning the leaves on some trees autumn colours in July, and from the spring onwards we noticed the tops of many trees are losing leaves. It is heartbreaking to watch this process – a result of climate change?

Recently we have had smog up here in the mountains due to fires in Ontario and Manitoba. Everyone is affected to some extent, but people suffering from multiple chemical sensitivity even more so. We had to close our windows and turn on the air filtration system. Members from Québec and across Canada have had different levels of exposure to the smoke, and therefore remain increasingly isolated in order to avoid these exposures.

Below are two opportunities you cannot miss!

We strongly recommend that you participate in the following pre-consultation about a proposal to amend Cosmetic Regulation. [Health Canada is seeking your comments and feedback regarding potential amendments to the Cosmetics Regulations](#), and wants to know if they should list specific fragrance 'allergens' in cosmetics that are currently on labels under the word 'parfum'. In addition, several other amendments are being considered. Please respond to them in great numbers. Let them know the effects of their 'fragrance allergens' on you and your life. How it makes you ill, disables,



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isolates you and RESTRICTS ACCESS to life, in an Accessible Canada. Just as for cigarettes, tell them you want warnings on the bottles and packaging, which refer to the toxicity of the contents, and which should also state 'Can trigger sensitivities and chronic disability – use at your own risk, and keep away from others'. Tell them you want all the health effects listed besides 'allergens', such as hormone disruptors, carcinogens, developmental toxins, neurotoxicants, and 'unknown effects'. Write to the following email address to request a comment package and for instructions on how you can provide your comments: [hc.cosmetics.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.cosmetics.sc@canada.ca) You have until August 30 to respond. Hurry! You know how time flies. Share this information widely: in your Facebook groups and other platforms. [Visit ASEQ-EHAQ's fragrance-free project for more information on the health effects of perfumes.](#)

[Consultation on Glyphosate](#): You also have until September 3 to respond to Health Canada to stop them from increasing the maximum residue limits (MRLs) of Glyphosate (Brand Roundup) on crops such as dry beans and peas, oats, etc. For the full list, [click here](#). [Read about this urgent issue in the media](#). Here are the [health effects of Glyphosate](#). Tell Health Canada to do their job and protect the health of Canadians by promoting organic agriculture and *removing* these toxins from our lives, NOT increasing them. It is a shame to even ask the public to comment on something so ridiculous such as 'Do you agree that I raise the poison level on your food'!

We strongly encourage you to participate and share this information widely.

On behalf of the board of ASEQ-EHAQ we would like to thank all our volunteers for their dedication and participation in the creation of this newsletter. We also welcome newcomers to our team at ASEQ-EHAQ and look forward to creating and building ASEQ-EHAQ with them: Kelly Tragash, Administrative Coordinator, and Mahdi Sabour, Communications and Environmental Outreach. We also thank our team for their amazing work and contributions: Johannie Simard, LL. B., Legal Research, Yifan Wang, Research Data Analyst, Nikolas Argiropoulos, Research Data Analyst. Special thanks to our volunteer Stephanie Robins, researcher, for the countless hours and expertise she shares with us so generously and warmly.

Before we end this message, we wish you an amazing August filled with joy and happiness – please hold onto that even in difficult times.



With all our best wishes, as always,

*Rohini Peris, President*

*Michel Gaudet, Executive Director*