



PRESS RELEASE

FEBRUARY 8th, 2023 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **WEBINAR**

### **IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY: WITH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND LOW EMISSION CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**

The Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ), in collaboration with La Société d'habitation du Québec and Québec BVI (Bâtiment vert et intelligent), is organizing a webinar titled "IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY: WITH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND LOW EMISSION CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS" to raise awareness among industries, decision-makers and the building community on the importance of developing and marketing low-emission construction materials and products with transparent and clear labelling and to seek innovative solutions to have good indoor air quality. This online event will be held on March 23, 2023, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and will feature presentations from leaders in the field.

"We are looking for participation from companies interested in expanding their market for low-emission building and renovation products, including innovative solutions for energy efficiency, ventilation, heating and cooling systems, and also to include architectural firms, research, academia and students in the field, and public service employees involved in housing and public health," says Michel Gaudet, Executive Director of ASEQ-EHAQ.

There is growing awareness on the need for good indoor air quality, and while natural, healthy food and household products are now readily available in Quebec stores, the same cannot be said for low-emission construction and renovation materials. Whether we need caulking, wall coverings, flooring, or paint, it is not easy to find or identify less harmful materials in stores.

Lack of information and access to these materials, is a major issue for those who choose to have such products, and especially for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) who wish to build or renovate their homes. Due to their medical condition, people with MCS experience reactions to chemicals or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in products, causing symptoms in many body systems such as headaches, memory loss, coughing and congestion, joint pain, and skin problems. This condition, which affects more than 3.5% of Canadians, with 1.1

million diagnosed in Canada, and over 250,000 in Québec (Statistics Canada, 2020) is still largely unknown to most of the population even though it's a recognized disability (CHRC, 2007), that needs to be accommodated for access to housing, by using non to low-emission products.

The ASEQ-EHAQ is working on the ECOASIS project, an affordable construction project of 40 healthy housing units for people living with MCS. This project will be presented during the webinar.

For more information or to register for the event: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/billets-ameliorer-la-qualite-de-lair-interieur-improving-indoor-air-quality-531054868407>

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