



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

ECO-JOURNAL

February 2024

News from ASEQ-EHAQ

Dear members and friends,

We hope that you had a healthy January and are doing well. We at the association were extremely busy preparing for our upcoming workshops and events across Canada. As a reminder, we are working on the Empowering Community and Removal of Barriers (ECRoB) project. The ECRoB project has been funded in part by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program, Disability Component. We thank the Government of Canada for this tremendous opportunity. Through this project, we have reached out across Canada to spread awareness through education on multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). As mentioned on the logo of the ECRoB project: "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"—Helen Keller.

Our partners in this project are important groups from across Canada, and they are from different disciplines, such as disability, law, environment, health, and indigenous participation. We are thankful to our partners for their dedication to this project and for their continued involvement.

Through this project, we have reached hundreds of groups, associations, and organizations across Canada, held many in-person meetings, and provided public and private workshops to various organizations, including human rights commissions and government agencies.

Our primary focus has been to teach about the biological, social, and legal aspects of multiple chemical sensitivity to provide accessibility for the disability of MCS. Accessibility for MCS is defined as the ability to enter spaces, such as the workplace, healthcare, education, etc., and participate in daily living without barriers to access, such as perfumes, scents, mould, and other chemicals in the built environment. We stress the importance of





product choice to provide accessibility.

In January, we completed three workshops for medical doctors across Canada, and one legal workshop for British Columbia-specific rights. If you missed these events, you can find the videos on our website in the coming days. We will notify you when they are up on the website. We encourage you to share this information with your healthcare professionals for the medical workshop.

We thank everyone who attends workshops and participates in focus groups, including the focus group meetings held within our air quality research project. Your participation helps us to serve our entire community. It provides essential information to make a strong case for accessibility and inclusion for MCS, as well as other disabilities and health conditions impacted by air quality. We thank you for your effort and your time.

There is still time to participate in the research on the air quality project. [You can find details on the project here](#). The project is titled 'Accessible Indoor Air in the Built Environment' and is funded in part by Accessible Standards Canada, Government of Canada. Ethics approval for this research has been received from the Women's College Hospital, Toronto. The results of this research will determine a new generation of standards for accessibility to the built environment.

As we go onwards in 2024, we look forward to your presence at our upcoming events. There is a significant legal event in Québec on February 29. [Speakers for the event](#) include the President of the Québec Human Rights Commission, Lawyer Julius Grey – Human Rights, and Lawyer Martin-Ménard – Medical malpractice. Lawyers will receive 2 ½ hours of training for attending this event; this has been confirmed by the Québec Bar (Barreau du Québec). In view of the [damning INSPQ report on MCS](#), your attendance from across Canada is required, and welcome. [Details of this workshop, including registration, can be found here](#). There is simultaneous translation for this event. Please get in touch with legal professionals you know to attend this event.

Legal events are also being planned for the rest of Canada.



Before we end this message, we request that you take part in two surveys:

1. ASEQ-EHAQ Surve: Evaluating Impact and Gathering Feedback:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdt1GcG6CF0fqyH2SLOFzyAwH_OIOEJY0aLzMFU33TjVHOXyQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

2. Scent boosters and accessibility:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcKc3B9O1gVSqD2xqOPVRzXvapwrlWRWutRn08EnVgBJB-1Q/viewform?usp=pp_url

Be assured that we work for the MCS community, whether you are members or not. If you are interested, lifetime membership is only \$10. All information provided is confidential under the law. The more we are, the stronger our voice.

As always, we send you all good wishes for health.

Sincerely,

Rohini Peris, President & CEO
Michel Gaudet, Executive Director