



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

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### Strengthening Advocacy Across Borders

As an organization dedicated to environmental health and advocacy in Quebec and across Canada, ASEQ-EHAQ views the recent proclamation by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey declaring May 12-18, 2024, as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Week with great significance. This initiative not only underscores the ongoing global effort to raise awareness about Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) but also highlights the critical need for unified action in addressing this complex condition.

MCS affects individuals who are sensitized to low levels of various chemicals commonly found in everyday products and environments. These individuals can experience debilitating symptoms that impact their daily lives, from respiratory issues, and migraines to multi-system symptoms, all exacerbated by exposure to chemical triggers. Despite being recognized as a disability under the Canadian Human Rights Act (2007), people with MCS often face significant challenges, including discrimination, difficulty finding suitable housing or employment, and a general lack of accessibility to society.

In Canada, MCS awareness and support efforts vary across provinces and territories. ASEQ-EHAQ, based in Quebec, advocates tirelessly for policies that protect individuals from harmful chemical exposures and promote environments conducive to better health outcomes across the country. The Massachusetts proclamation aligns closely with our mission, as it signifies a





commitment to raising awareness and promoting dialogue on MCS, not just within the United States but internationally as well.

Governor Healey's proclamation coinciding with International May 12th Awareness Day amplifies the message of solidarity and support for individuals living with MCS. This originated in the United Kingdom in 2006 and serves as a reminder of the collective effort needed to address MCS-related challenges and advocate for inclusive policies that prioritize environmental health and safety.

ASEQ-EHAQ believes that initiatives such as [Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Week](#) are crucial steps towards creating a more inclusive and understanding society. By promoting awareness and advocating for improved regulations, we strive to create environments that are safer and more accommodating for individuals with MCS, both in Canada and around the world.

In conclusion, the Massachusetts proclamation represents a significant milestone in the journey towards greater MCS awareness and support. ASEQ-EHAQ remains committed to collaborating with stakeholders, organizations, and governments to advance environmental health policies that protect vulnerable populations and ensure a healthier future for all.