

In an impactful address, Rohini Peris, President & CEO of the Environmental Health Association of Canada (EHAC-ASEC) and the Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ), highlighted the vital work of the organizations and their tireless efforts to support the multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) community. At the heart of their mission is the drive to bridge the gap between scientific reality and public awareness by spearheading independent research on MCS. Because individuals with MCS are deeply impacted by the highly toxic environments of modern life, these organizations focus heavily on uncovering how everyday toxins, consumer products, and poor indoor air quality directly compromise human health.

These associations provide a critical bridge, translating complex scientific findings into actionable legal and policy insights. Ms. Peris emphasized that the ultimate goal is systemic change, using hard evidence to lobby for stricter chemical regulations, safer consumer manufacturing standards, and legally recognized workplace and housing accommodations. By framing MCS through a human rights and environmental health lens, they work to ensure policymakers understand that accommodations for MCS are as vital as physical ramps for wheelchair users.

Furthermore, a significant component of advocacy focuses on the built environment, particularly the critical need for toxic-free, affordable housing and enforced fragrance-free public spaces. Many individuals suffering from MCS find themselves isolated or displaced because standard building materials and everyday fragranced products trigger severe, debilitating physical reactions. Through educational campaigns and targeted outreach, these organizations work to transform hospitals, schools, and offices into accessible spaces, ensuring patients do not have to forfeit their careers, medical care, or social circles because of hazardous indoor air.

Ultimately, by fighting for corporate and governmental accountability, the work of EHAC-ASEC and ASEQ-EHAQ extends far beyond helping currently vulnerable patients. They operate on the principle that the barriers faced by the MCS community are early warning signs of a broader public health crisis. By pushing for healthier public spaces, safer consumer goods, and toxin-free environments today, these organizations are actively working to prevent future chronic illnesses and create a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable world for everyone.