

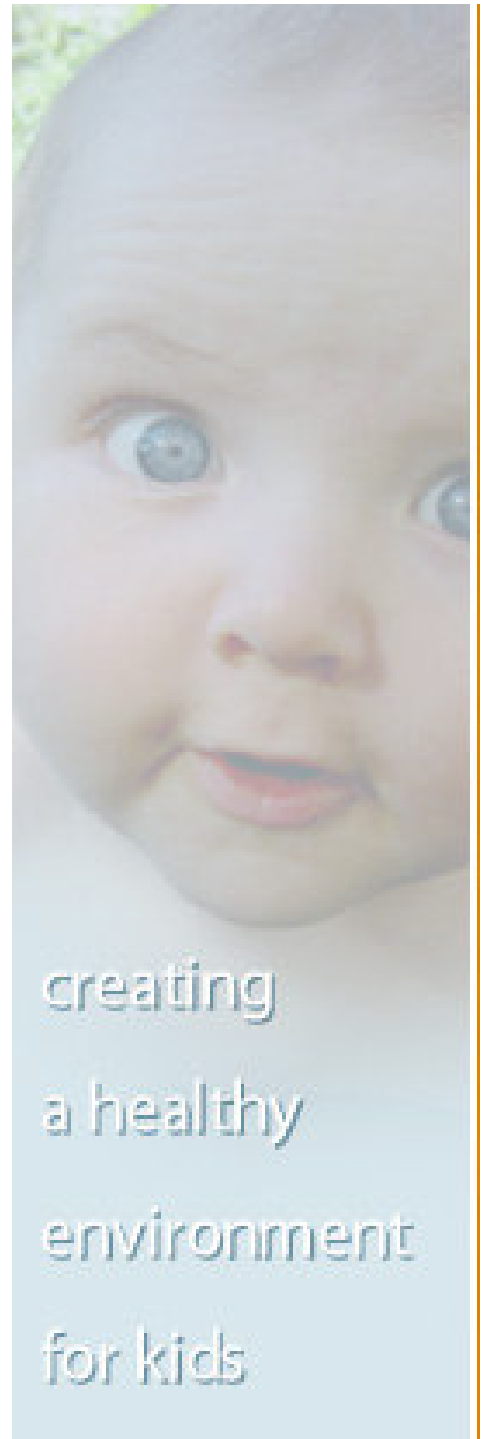
# Developing a National Strategy for Children's Environmental Health

Meeting of the Canadian Environmental Network – Workshop on Children's Health and Environment, 25 October 2008

*Erica Phipps, Partnership Director, CPCHE*  
[erica@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca](mailto:erica@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca)



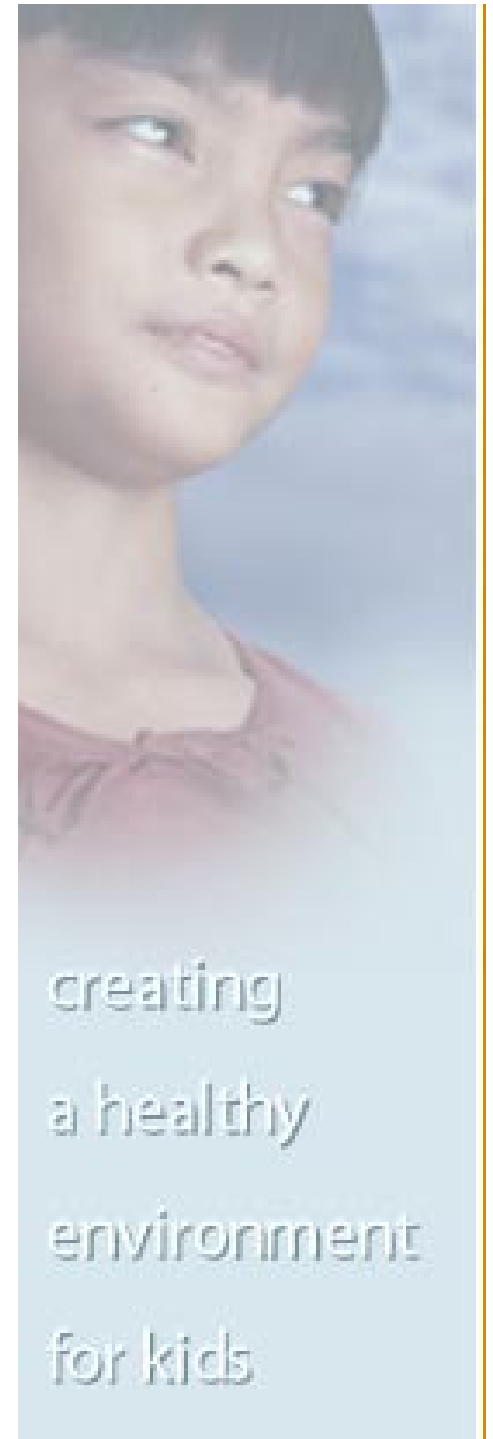
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# Who is CPCHE?

...a collaboration of health, environment and children's organizations that are working together to protect children's health from environmental exposures and toxic chemicals.

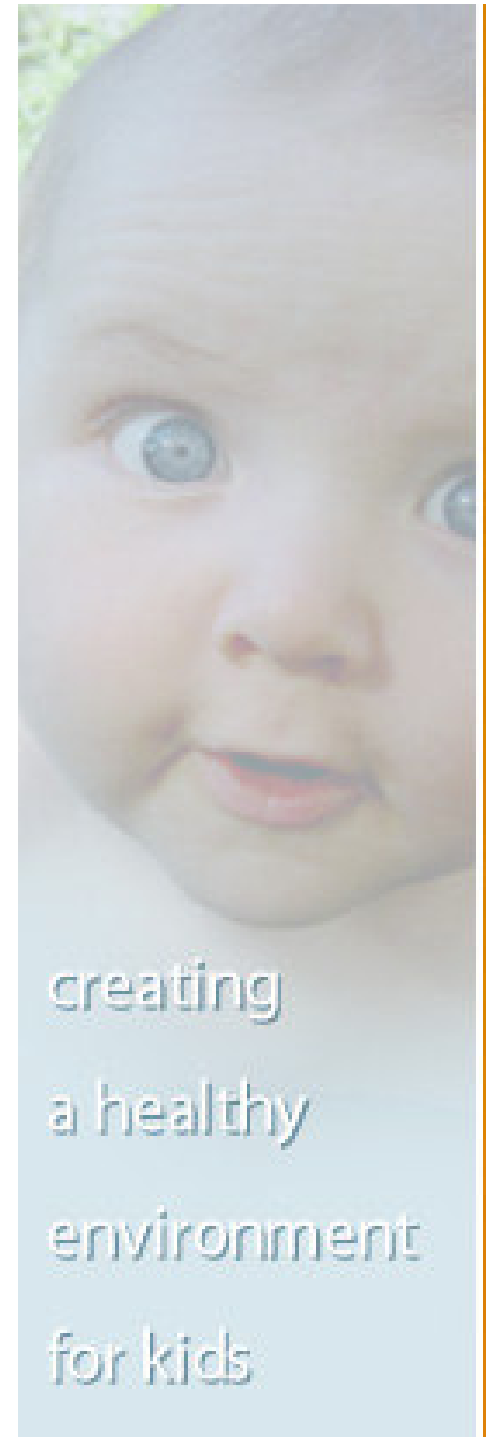
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## CPCHE Partners...

- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Canadian Child Care Federation
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Environmental Health Clinic- Women's College Hospital
- Environmental Health Institute of Canada
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
- Ontario College of Family Physicians
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Pollution Probe
- South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- Toronto Public Health

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## Presentation overview

- CPCHE's National Policy Consultation on Children's Health and Environment
- CPCHE's upcoming Vision and Strategy for Children's Health and Environment in Canada: First Steps in Lifelong Health

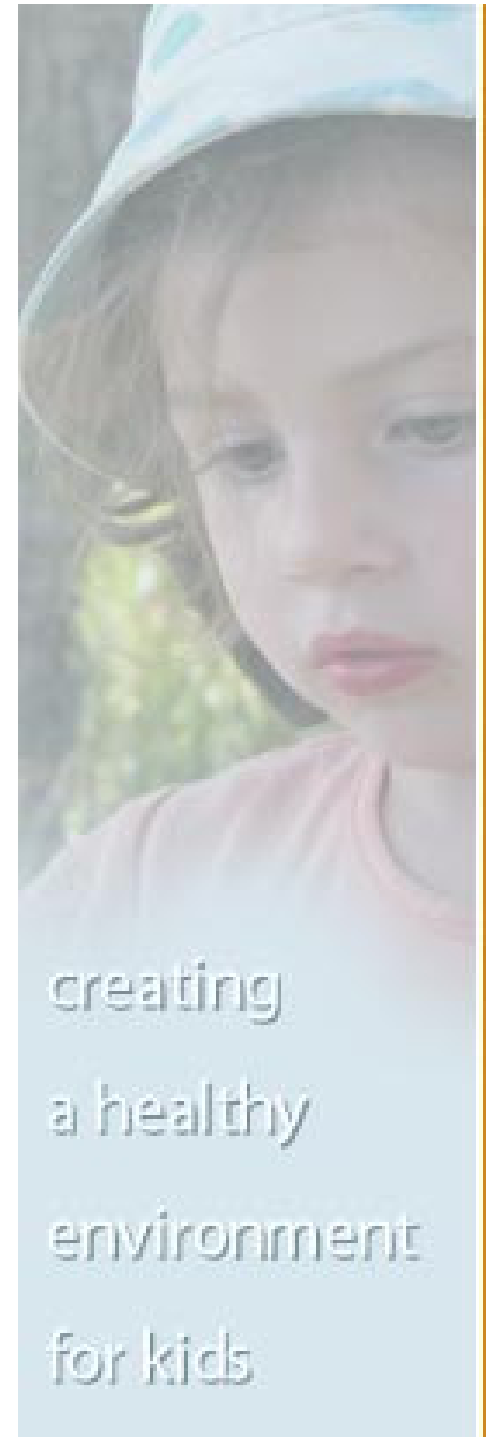
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# National Policy Consultation

- In 2007, CPCHE, led by Pollution Probe, convened a year-long national dialogue on children's environmental health.
- Aim was to build a dialogue on the elements of a national approach to better understanding and addressing environmental threats to child health and development.
- Focus was on toxic chemicals in the environment and consumer products, and air pollution.

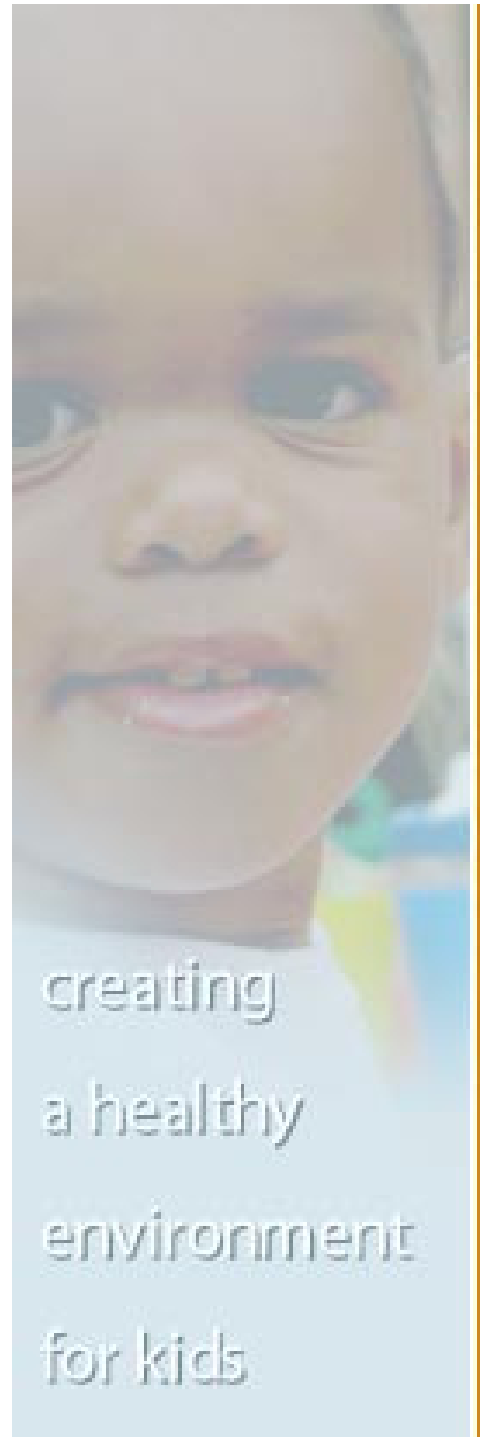
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# National Policy Consultation

- Six workshops held in cities across Canada:
  - Ottawa, Jan. 2007: Context for Children's Health and Environment
  - Toronto, Feb. 2007: Air Pollution: Implications for Children's Environmental Health
  - Edmonton, April 2007: Research Informing Policy
  - Moncton, May 2007: Environmental Risks to Brain Development
  - Montreal, Sept. 2007: Toxic Substances in Consumer Products
  - Vancouver, Nov. 2007: Putting It All Together
- Participation by a broad cross-section of stakeholders: government, NGOs, industry, academia/research
- Documentation of dialogue and perspectives through NPC report

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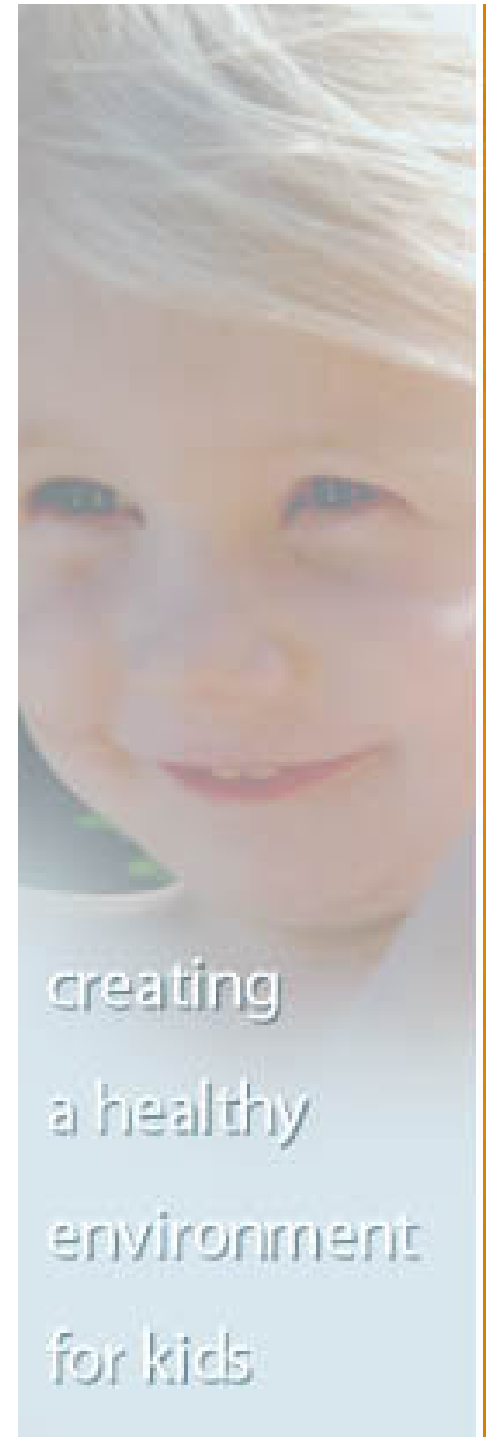


# What did we learn?

There is broad agreement among stakeholders on the need to:

- Build the knowledge base:
  - Tracking and surveillance (e.g., biomonitoring)
  - Longitudinal cohort research
  - Build scientific and research capacity
  - Interdisciplinary approaches
  - Bridging the science-policy divide
- Improve law and policy:
  - Appropriate legislation and regulation
  - Integration among laws
  - Right to know
  - Product recall powers
  - Implement CMP
  - Eliminate nonessential uses of lead and mercury in products
- Increase education, training and outreach:
  - Health professionals, other key intermediaries
  - Parents, care givers, children, community leaders
- Address child poverty

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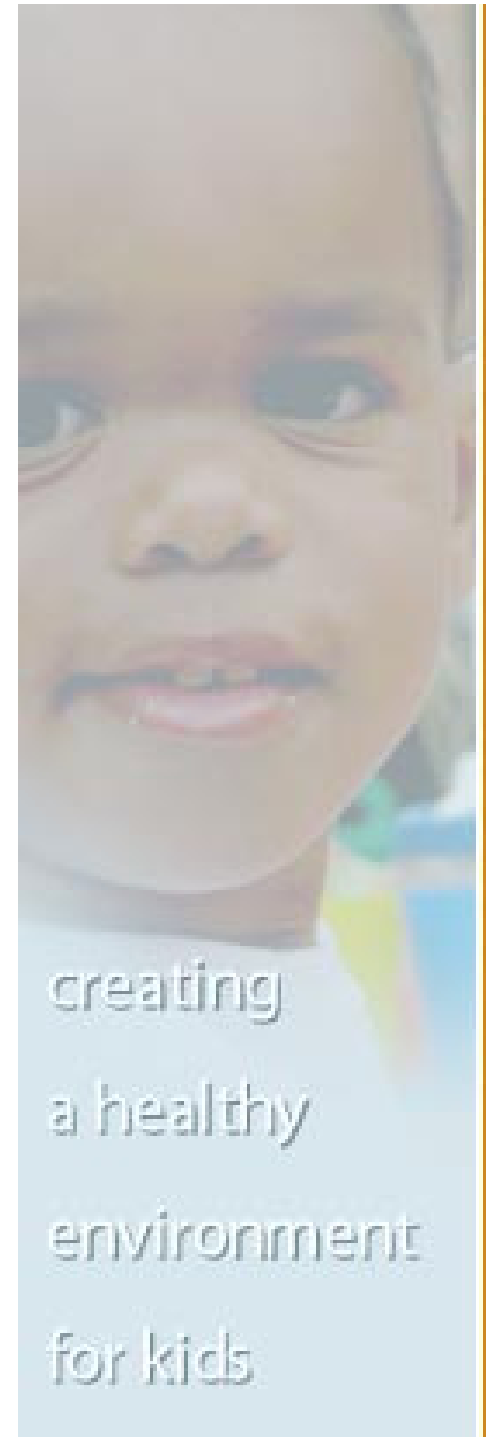


# What we learned... (continued)

There was a diversity of perspectives expressed on a number of issues, including:

- Precaution
- Risk assessment
- Substitution
- Burden of proof/reverse onus
- Chemical testing

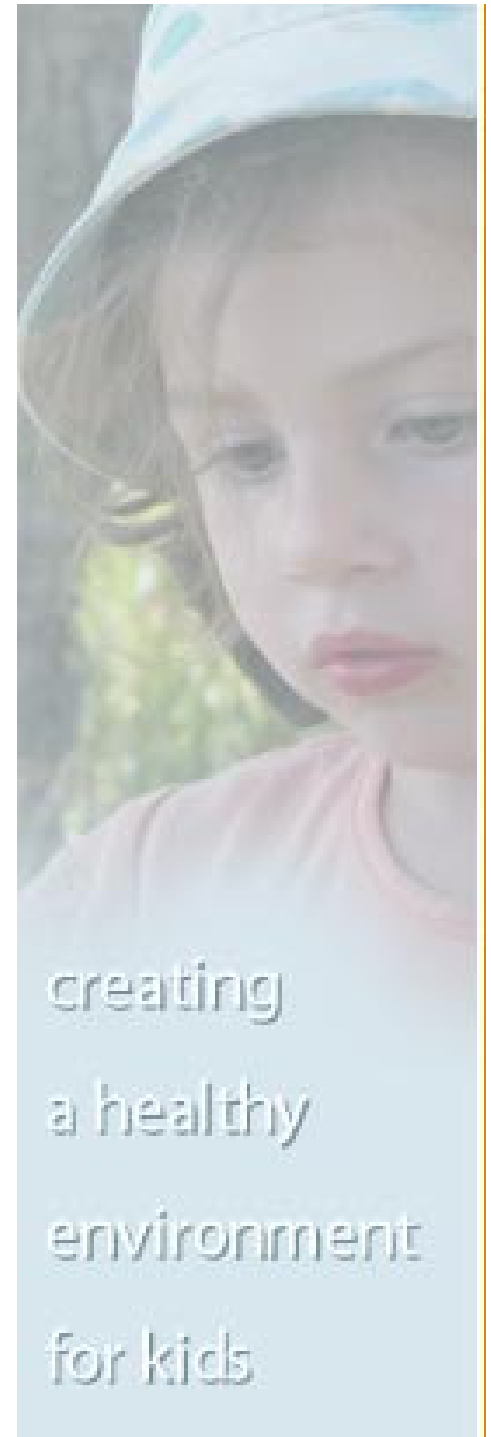
The “devil is in the details” – stakeholders may support similar principles but have diverging views on implementation.



# CPCHE's Vision and Strategy

- Informed (but not constrained) by the NPC dialogue
- Presents a coherent strategy for strengthening children's environmental health protection in Canada with the aim of positively influencing policy and decision-making
- Primarily federal in scope
- Calls for priority actions in the areas of:
  - Research
  - Law and policy
  - On-the-ground protection
- Will guide CPCHE's collaborative work over the coming years, within the partnership and with other stakeholders
- All CPCHE partners are now signed on; anticipated release in December 2008
- CPCHE will convene a multi-stakeholder forum in 2010 to review progress

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# For more information...

Erica Phipps  
Partnership Director  
819.458.3750

[erica@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca](mailto:erica@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca)

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