

RCEN Health Caucus - 2007 Work Plan

(January 1 – December 31, 2007)

Caucus Coordinator: Sarah Heiberg

Steering Committee Members:

[Arciris Garay](#), Youth for Social Justice Network, Ottawa, ON
[Sheila Cole](#), Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia Halifax, NS
[David Daughton](#), Eastern Co-operative Health Organization Charlottetown, PEI
[Annie Ferncase](#), Healthy Food Choices Group, St. John's, NL
[David Parker](#), Vegetarians Of Alberta Association, Edmonton, AB
[Jim Elliott](#), The Gaia Group - Regina, SK
[John Micheal Lannon](#), Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Network

PROJECTS CARRIED OVER FROM 2005-2006 WORKPLAN

- World Urban Forum Partnerships and the upcoming Habitat meetings in China
- Policy Working Group: Health Care and RCEN/Health Caucus and Health Canada relations

Projects (External)

World Urban Forum Follow Up and Partnerships

Sarah (Health Caucus Coordinator) to continue to showcase the Health Caucus coordination role at last WUF and to advocate for organizational funds for Canadian ENGO/Health organizations' involvement through the Health Caucus.

Steering Committee to develop fundraising and organizational plan to facilitate ENGO/Health organization involvement at next WUF round

- Fundraise for WUF4 by tracking Canadian government funding
- Liaise with WUF partnership groups to seek out opportunities for WUF 4

Steering Committee to develop alternative plan without significant funding

Health Canada Relations and Health Care

- Steering Committee members to present and act as resources at SEP consultation in January
- Participate in the writing of a consolidated report with recommendations resulting from the consultation
- Steering Committee members to continue to develop consultative relationship with Health Canada SEP and discuss follow-up after initial January meeting
- Sarah to continue acting as liaison from national office between Health Caucus SC and Health Canada
- Volunteers to investigate funding sources for a "greening" of the health care system

Health and Wellness

(Steering Committee to prioritize and focus on the issues below from brainstorming session, timeline it and choose fundraising strategy)

Possible health and wellness issues to address conditional to funding:

- "Youth, Health Choices and Prevention" research project - **Project lead: Lobie**
 - Lobie has submitted a brief proposal to the CPHA rep in the Atlantic region
 - Lobie will follow up on funding from CPHA

- “Elders, Health Choices and Prevention/Recovery” research project - **Project lead: Annie**
 - Annie is helping people without transportation, with food issues
- “Number of people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity across Canada” study - **Project lead: Sheila**
 - Is something that Sheila is keeping in the forefront when dealing with the federal government
 - Sheila will continue to lobby for government to take this on as a project
- (Negative) environmental impacts of conventional medicine (drug and surgery) - **Project lead: Lobie**
 - Lobie is working on this through his youth project (linked to youth, health choices and prevention)
 - Annie has been working locally on alternatives to conventional medicine
 - (Volunteers to host a broader Health Care dialogue and inclusion of alternative health care through conference call or web dialogue)
- Greening of Health Care - **Project lead: Jim**
 - There is a PIRG in Saskatoon now and funds may be available through it for this research
 - The Health Caucus can work on distribution and promotion of the research paper

Events

- Face to face meeting January 15th during consultation with Health Canada
- Health Caucus and HC Steering Committee meeting at ACE 2007

Partners

- Follow-up with WUF partnership groups
- Receive updates from the Entrepreneurship and Environmental Finance Working Group
- Liaise with the decision-making bodies of the RCEN – Board, AGA Planning Committee, Policy Committee, and Membership Committee
- Liaise and communicate with other RCEN caucuses on issues of mutual concern or as issues dictate

Members

- Send regular email updates to members of Health Caucus, including announcements of consultation reports on the website
- Send a call out for Health Caucus members interested in cooperating with the SC approved projects
- Request feedback from members for Health Caucus representative on national council on committee issues (membership committee, AGA committee etc.) and policy development

Policy (Internal)

- Develop Health Caucus policy on meeting practices and healthy/greener travel

Ongoing Increased Awareness

While not actionable items on this year’s workplan, these issues reflect ongoing areas of interest. We will endeavor to continue to address these interest areas at every opportunity.

- Increase awareness of the need for training of RCEN membership and Health Caucus Steering Committee on board responsibilities, committee responsibilities, and healthy community relationship building at meetings and greener travel guidelines
- Introduce necessary resolutions and policies at the national or regional level for increased healthy and holistic community building within the environmental movement of the RCEN
- Steering Committee to form “Spirit and Wellbeing” working group to follow up on informal discussion at Montreal meetings around the intellectual and spiritual growth of the environmental sector

Funds

- Work with Olivier (RCEN Outreach Director) and regional staff to access increased funding for membership participation at ACE – **Project lead: Arciris and Lobie**
- Explore support options with Health Canada’s SEP for activities laid out in the workplan
- Fundraise for any of the above research projects
- Research for funds to examine the medical system and how to green it – **Project lead: Jim**

Communications

- Develop a communications policy for the Health Caucus, for consistency in relations with, and accountability to, membership – **Project Lead: Arciris**
- Explore Skype and other inexpensive communication methods
- Regular conference calls with the health caucus steering committee