

A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Environmentally Healthy Communities



This partnership involves three environment and health organizations in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada: EHANS – Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia; RATE – Real Alternatives to Toxins in the Environment; and CASLE – Citizens for a Safe Learning Environment.

Each organization arose out of a small core group of individuals whose health was challenged by having Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS). In order to survive they had to reduce their chemical loads in all areas of life. These groups have encouraged an open, sophisticated community dialogue on the inter-relationship between environment and health. EHANS has developed educational materials about MCS, contributes to the development of environment and health policy in Nova Scotia and across Canada and has a physician scholarship program for environmental medicine. RATE spearheaded our pesticide by-law campaign, while CASLE has made Nova Scotia schools healthier for all students.

These three groups share information and support each others' campaigns. They are comprised of volunteer, working Boards of Directors on which the original core group of individuals still serve. Together, we have made Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) the most conscious environment and health-related jurisdiction in North America. Our community has No Scent policies in public buildings, hospitals and schools; a pesticide by-law in effect since 2003; strong Non-Smoking legislation; and a high-school built to the highest environment and health standards with two more such schools in construction.

Reducing
chemical
exposures both
indoor and
outdoor
protects the
health and well-
being of all
citizens while
lowering health
costs!

- Sheila Cole, Environment and
Health Educator



Environmental Sector Roundtable June 21st, 2:30PM Exhibition Hall A

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