



# REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE FOR 2022-2023

**New Brunswick  
Environmental Network**



# REPORT

In May 2005, New Brunswickers began discussing ways to reduce children's exposure to chemical pollutants in our air, water, and soil. After several meetings and discussions, the Children's Environmental Health Collaborative (CEH) was formed.

The work of the CEH is supported by the CEH Strategy for Action that outlines six goals:

- To develop and maintain a collaborative effort of all stakeholders involved in children's environmental health in New Brunswick
- Develop and provide educational opportunities for families and professionals
- To encourage and promote research
- To improve policy and legislation related to children's environmental health
- To reduce exposure to specific contaminants through strategic directions
- To promote and foster children's understanding of, and interaction with, the natural environment

There are currently three active teams under the umbrella of the CEH working on these objectives: Team Nurses, Team Cumulative Impacts and Indicators, and Team Education. The work of the CEH is guided by a Strategic Committee.

As secretariat for the Children's Environmental Health Collaborative, the New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN) coordinated the following activities over the course of 2022-23:

## **Organization and facilitation of a workshop on eco-anxiety and climate change**

The collective held a workshop on Eco-anxiety on November 10th, 2022 online via Zoom. Professor Lindsay Galway of Lakehead University presented the results of the first national survey on climate anxiety among youth (ages 16-25) which contained qualitative interviews conducted across the country, highlighting lived experiences. Workshop participants then engaged in group discussions about the implications of the research and their personal and professional experiences with eco-anxiety. The workshop brought together 40 participants from a variety of sectors including public health and the environment.

## **Organization and facilitation of a conference on children's environmental health**

On January 23rd, 2023, the annual conference of the Children's Environmental Health Collaborative was held under the theme Environmental Health Education - Leveraging Tools and Resources for Action. A total of 29 people from different sectors participated in the conference. The conference received an overall average rating of 4.5, indicating a high level of satisfaction with the day among participants. A full report of this conference is available here: <https://nben.ca/en/ceh-province-wide-conference-reports-presentations.html#>

## Organization and facilitation of cross-sectoral team meetings for the Collaborative, Strategic Committee, and other initiatives

The NB Children's Environmental Health Collaborative is composed of over 400 individuals from nearly 100 agencies and organizations representing government, non-government, academic institutions, professional associations, and the health, environment, and education sectors. Its vision is to provide a cleaner, healthier environment for children by working with our teams and through various collaborations. During the 2022-2023 year, several team meetings were held to discuss and work on different projects. Communication with CEH members has also been central to this year's activities.

### Summary of team meetings for 2022-2023

Teams	Number of meetings	Number of hours	Number of participants
Team Education	10	15	7
Team Nurses	5	6	6
Team ICI	4	6	11
Strategic Committee	7	7	9
Total	26	34	33

### Children's Environmental Health Collaborative newsletter

The Children's Environmental Health Collaborative sends a regular bilingual newsletter to all members of the Children's Environmental Health Collaborative containing relevant news and events. Over 2022-2023, the CEH sent 15 newsletters with an average open rate of 26.43 percent and an average click-through rate of 7.17 percent.

### Children's Environmental Health Collaborative Facebook page

The Children's Environmental Health Collaborative maintains an active Facebook page sharing relevant news, events, and studies, focusing on things of particular importance to parents and health professionals. In 2022-2023, the Facebook page posted 126 times, achieving a reach of 801. The page currently has 424 likes and 437 followers.

### Promotion of a bilingual information sheet on environmental health for distribution at discharge clinics, mother and baby clinics, and nurse management

Team Nurses brings together nurses from across the province who are interested in environmental health. The team's goal over the past few years has been to develop a bilingual infosheet titled *Making Safer and Greener Choices for You and Your Family*, that clearly identifies suggestions and points of caution related to environmental health for families. The team's goal this past year was to promote the bilingual infosheet that they developed for New Brunswick. The one-page infosheet covers labels and advertising, food, air quality, and renovations. In addition, it provides links to credible websites where families can find reliable information. Team members promoted the document to local health authorities, such as Horizon Health Network and Public Health, as well as to other online platforms, such as the New Brunswick Lung Association and Société Santé en français. All resources are available in both languages on the NBEN website: (<https://nben.ca/en/making-safer-choices.html>; <https://nben.ca/fr/faire-des-choix-surs.html>).

## **Finalization of a bilingual activity guide encouraging children and families to interact with the natural world, learn more about it, and promote healthy behaviours**

Team Education is made up of individuals representing the Fredericton Family Resource Centre, the New Brunswick Lung Association, Health Canada - Atlantic Region, the Eel Ground Health Centre, Public Health, and private citizens. For the past year, the group has been working together to complete an activity guide for children. The guide consists of different activities for the four seasons as well as recipes and useful resources for families. The guide is available in both official languages. The team members are planning a launch event this year to introduce the guide to the communities. All resources are available in both languages on the NBEN website: (<https://nben.ca/en/11-working-tog/ceh-collaborative/2564-seasonal-activity-guide.html> ; <https://nben.ca/fr/11-working-tog/ceh-collaborative/2565-guide-des-activites-saisonniere.html>)

## **Team Indicators and Cumulative Impacts (Team ICI)**

Team ICI was formed in mid-2019 following the New Brunswick Children's Environmental Health Collaborative conference. The team currently consists of individuals representing the provincial departments of Environment and Health, Health Canada, the New Brunswick Health Council, the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training, researchers from the University of Moncton and UNB, and other consultants. Team members continue to work together on the NB ECHOScreen, an interactive mapping tool that integrates health, environmental and socio-economic indicators, and shares cross-sectoral knowledge on various projects and quantitative data that exist in New Brunswick.