



NEW BRUNSWICK LUNG ASSOCIATION L'ASSOCIATION PULMONAIRE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Honorary Patron
The Honourable Marilyn Trenholm Counsell
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick
La lieutenant-gouverneure du Nouveau-Brunswick

Honorary Chairman
The Honourable Elvy Robichaud
Minister of Health & Community Services
Ministère de la Santé et des Services communautaires

President/CEO
Kenneth H. Maybee, OMM CD

February 28, 2003

Secretary, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue, West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6K6

Dear Secretary:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement 2002 Progress Report. Congratulations on putting together such a useful, readable and succinct report of the ongoing initiatives generated by the Agreement, and a summary of the state of air quality around our common border.

The Agreement has had a beneficial impact on air quality leading to reductions in sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides thus reducing acid deposition and particle formation. The Ozone Annex and improved monitoring and reporting should continue to impact improvements in air quality. We strongly support the mandate and achievements under the Agreement.

To maximize the future success of the Agreement we suggest:

1. Improved public education and engagement in the issue of transboundary air pollution and emission reduction. This was an aim of the original agreement and was strongly re-enforced during the negotiation of the Ozone Annex. The Ozone Annex stipulates support for public education and engagement, the need for which was strongly advocated by myself, on behalf of the Canadian Lung Association, as a member of the negotiating team.

The effectiveness of the actions under the agreement can be greatly increased if the public takes personal and collective steps towards energy efficiency and the support of improved government legislation. Programs and organizations dedicated to public engagement should be fostered as part of the actions under the Agreement.

2. Improved tracking of indicators of air quality, particularly health outcomes such as respiratory and cardiovascular mortalities, hospital admissions, emergency room visits, lost work or school days, increased medication use, etc. Visibility and impacts on natural ecosystems are also important indicators.

65 Brunswick St., Fredericton, NB E3B 1G5 • tel: (506) 455-8961 fax: (506) 462-0939 e-mail: nblung@nbnret.nb.ca

Chairman of the Board
Lloyd Sutherland

Past President
Jean Marie Donovan

Vice President
Robert Constable

Medical Advisor
Dr. Wendy Alexander

Treasurer
Barry Dennis


Charitable Registration
No. 10776 9044 RR0001

3. Improved support for research relating to air quality - emission reduction technology, green power technology development, improved monitoring and modeling capabilities, and impact studies, particularly health impacts of air pollution. We strongly support a recommendation from the International Joint Commission for the development of targeted funds for research in this area.

4. The addition of a Particulate Matter Annex to the Agreement. Human exposure to particulate matter, especially PM 2.5, causes serious health consequences, costing billions of health care dollars each year. PM levels across the Canada-US border often exceed the standards in either country and a binational agreement would result in stronger efforts to reduce the emission of direct and precursor chemicals.

On behalf of the New Brunswick Lung Association, I offer our full support for the efforts of the International Joint Commission in continuing to improve the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. We look forward to collaborating with the Commission and other partners in achieving the recommendations outlined above.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Maybee
President and CEO