



April 25, 2024

**Re: Call For Action to Ensure Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools and Child Care Settings**

Dear Premiers and Ministers,

Today, on [Healthy Environments for Learning Day](#) (HELD), the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE), together with over 35 organizations from across Canada, is issuing a [Collective Call for Action to Ensure Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools and Child Care Settings](#). This Call for Action presents the case for federal, provincial and territorial governments to take urgent action and bold leadership to attain and sustain healthy indoor air quality in schools and child care settings across Canada. Within the current landscape of increasing wildfire smoke, climate change-induced flooding, frequency of extreme heat events, and knowledge about airborne virus transmission, including COVID-19, indoor air quality is of increasing concern for children's health and well-being.

The effects of poor air quality pose greater risk to children and disproportionately affects those who experience poverty, racialization and other forms of marginalization. Ensuring that educational settings are healthy spaces that protect children from toxins and pollutants is an imperative step towards health equity where all children have access to healthy spaces to grow, learn, and play. Implementing robust interventions and strategies to improve indoor air quality reduces health risks and contributes to better learning outcomes. Healthy indoor air quality can lead to reduced absenteeism, enhanced academic performance and a more equitable future for all children. Further addressing indoor air quality by reducing sources of air pollution, including the burning of fossil fuels, is a tangible climate action strategy to reduce greenhouse emissions and mitigate climate change. This will directly protect children's health today as well as build resiliency and safety for children's health and the health of the planet into the future.

CPCHE's [Environmental Scan of Indoor Air Quality Support Programs for Schools and Child Care Settings in Canada](#) highlights legislative tools across federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions that could be used to support healthy IAQ in educational settings. The scan also points to significant gaps and challenges in addressing IAQ concerns in schools and child care settings across Canada.

Every child deserves to grow up and learn in environments that promote health and well-being. This [Healthy Environments for Learning Day](#), we urge you to take immediate action and join us in this shared commitment to ensure healthy indoor air quality in schools and child care settings across Canada.

Yours sincerely,

*Erica W. Phipps*

Erica Phipps, MPH, PhD  
Executive Director

*Signed on behalf of:*

**Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE) & Partners**



**Healthy  
Environments  
for Learning Day**



Canadian Association of  
Nurses for the Environment  
Association canadienne des  
infirmières et infirmiers pour  
l'environnement



CAPE  
Canadian Association  
of Physicians  
for the Environment  
Association canadienne  
des médecins  
pour l'environnement  
ACME



Canadian  
Environmental Law  
Association  
EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH.



the centre for  
Environmental Health Equity



Idac  
Learning Disabilities  
Association of Canada



Pollution  
Probe

