

NGO's and Public Health

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have long been involved in promoting and administering public health activities. Climate change is expected to affect the environmental factors that influence public health. Climate change is expected to have an effect on air quality, water quality and quantity, as well as extreme weather events. Health-oriented NGOs should be aware of the health risks associated with a changing Canadian climate.

The **New Brunswick Climate Change Hub** operates as a clearinghouse for information on climate change and can facilitate NGO activities that help reduce the human health impacts of climate change or educate vulnerable populations to potential risk factors. The Hub can also provide a forum for discussion and access to other organizations with similar climate change and health-related goals and objectives.

Some of the populations most vulnerable to the negative health impacts of climate change include those with reduced resilience to environmental stress and those individuals who are regularly exposed to the elements. These populations can include:

- asthma and severe allergy sufferers
- individuals with other chronic respiratory or cardiovascular illnesses
- children (especially infants) and the elderly
- outdoor workers – fishing, farming, road work
- Canada's homeless population

Individual choice and behaviour are extremely important for the everyday health of Canadians. Awareness and understanding are perhaps the most effective weapons against climate change-related health risks. NGOs involved in the administration of public health to high-risk populations are encouraged learn more about the possible health implications of climate change from Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Office at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cc.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.nbhub.org
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Success Story!

New Brunswick Lung Association

The New Brunswick Lung Association is working on several programs designed to build awareness and understanding on environmental air quality and health, which include a climate change component.

Examples include:

- Vehicle Scrappage Program
- Emissions Check Program
- No Idling Project
- Smog-Free NB

The New Brunswick Lung Association is also an in-kind partner of the New Brunswick Climate Change Hub.

For more information, contact the New Brunswick Lung Association at info@nb.lung.ca, or by phone at 1-800-565-LUNG