



The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care  
Coalition canadienne pour un système de santé écologique



## CNHE/Coalition National Green Health Care Collaborative

The **Canadian Nurses for Health & the Environment** (CNHE) and the **Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care** (the Coalition) recognize the mutual benefits to entering into a collaborative agreement to further the adoption of sustainable health care practices within the Canadian health services sector.

The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care traces its roots back to October 21, 2000 when 27 representatives from some of Canada's largest health care associations and environmental groups had an environmental educational day in Ottawa that was organized by the [Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment](#).

Since then, the Coalition and its member groups are proud of their significant impact and extensive involvement in the greening of the Canadian health care landscape through various local and national initiatives and publications: mercury thermometer exchange events, the facilitation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) project with the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention, publications such as "Doing Less Harm: Assessing and Reducing the Environmental and Health Impact of Canada's Health Care System," "Coalition Notes" Newsletters, the "Building Green Hospitals Checklist," and the Coalition [LISTSERV](#).

Additionally, the Coalition is very proud of its longstanding affiliation with the [Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society](#) and the ten-year association it has forged with the [Ontario Hospital Association](#) that has resulted in the development and launch of the Green Health Care Awards, the Green Education Sessions held at the [OHA's annual HealthAchieve](#) conference, and Canada's first and largest green health care trade show feature, The Green Lane.

Strongly committed to the adoption of environmentally-friendly and sustainable health care service delivery to complement compassionate delivery of health care; this collaborative partnership will fulfill the mandate of Coalition directors who want enthusiastic and committed organisations such as the [Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment](#) to join the Coalition in taking ownership of multiple greening initiatives by assisting in the development, deployment, integration and promotion of sustainable/green best practices through corporate sponsorship, partnerships with vendors, government organisations, affiliates and educational institutions, government liaisons, environmental legislation compliance, membership, education, workshops and marketing, web content, case studies, seminars, workshops and conferences.

For over ten years the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care has been helping professionals servicing health care, (i.e. medical, facility management, and green health care focused businesses) those working in health care facilities, non-governmental and governmental organizations, individuals, students and businesses to share green health care best practices and to become better equipped to deal with the growing demands placed upon them to be environmentally responsible health service workers and individuals.

This collaborative partnership together with our Stewardship Council members, staff, Interns, volunteers and supporters across Canada, will provide an extensive virtual platform for the sharing of ideas and resources; for lending support to those seeking to build a stronger, healthier and more sustainable health service delivery system and for improving access to best practice information, innovative goods and services that offer a clear environmental advantage to users within the sector, and to provide a venue for stakeholders to work together to reduce the negative environmental impact of health care.

Professionals servicing health care will learn about and contribute to how green health care can be integrated into their workplaces. Individual health care facilities implementing green health care initiatives will benefit their communities, their staff, and their patients by reducing the health and environmental impact of health care products on services.



The CNHE represents Registered Nurses across Canada and those working with Registered Nurses dedicated to the improvement of environmental health. CNHE objectives include:

- To support and enhance the engagement of Registered Nurses in the promotion of environmental health in all domains of nursing practice,
- To provide a national forum for Registered Nurses to communicate, discuss, debate, and share knowledge and expertise about environmental health issues of concern,
- To promote excellence in environmental health nursing practice across Canada,
- To promote the integration of environmental health at all levels of nursing curricula,
- To promote nursing research in environmental health issues,
- To provide a venue whereby Registered Nurses can speak as a unified voice for influencing public policy related to the environmental conditions affecting human health,
- To promote and support opportunities for inter-professional and inter-sectoral approaches to environmental health practice, education, research, and policy,
- To enhance the profile of Registered Nurses' work in environmental health at the municipal, provincial, national, and international levels,

CNHE is recognized as a leader in the promotion of environmental stewardship and ecological footprint reduction from the nurse caregiver perspective in long-term care and acute care facilities across Canada.

CNHE has expressed a desire to increase its focus on sustainable health care solutions and work collaboratively with the Coalition, Canada's premier integrated green health care resource network; a national voice and catalyst for environmental change.

To better deploy educational, financial and human resources for the benefit of the environment, health care stakeholders and members of CNHE and the Coalition, it is proposed the following Terms of Understanding be officially adopted by both organisations:

1. Both organisations will post prominently a link on their website to the other's website,
2. CNHE will provide the Coalition with a free trade show booth at each national Conference and admission for up to three Coalition booth staff,
3. The Coalition will provide a minimum of one representative to sit on the CNHE Green Committee when / if struck to act as a fully participating member,
4. The Coalition will provide resources as necessary to assist with the review and validation of requests from vendors to participate in the CNHE green vendor area should green vendor displays form part of any CNHE conference/programme,
5. The Coalition will assist in the recruitment of vendors for the CNHE national conference,
6. The Coalition will make available to CNHE access to the Coalition's booth at the annual Ontario Hospital Association HealthAchieve Conference and similar provincial or regional greening health care events to promote CNHE and its mandate (where permitted by event organisers),
7. The Coalition will take CNHE brochures and promotional/educational materials to appropriate events where CNHE members are not or cannot be present for distribution to attendees and to promote CNHE's work and the merits of CNHE membership,
8. CNHE will take Coalition brochures and promotional/educational materials to appropriate events where Coalition members are not or cannot be present for distribution to attendees and to promote the work of the Coalition and the merits of Coalition membership,
9. Explore funding opportunities to facilitate the joint delivery of educational webinars,
10. CNHE will encourage all members to subscribe to and submit stories for publication in the Coalition's Canadian Green Health Care Digest,



11. CNHE will encourage its members to share with the Coalition relevant sustainability, green nursing best practices, resources, funding announcements, awards and news items,
12. The Coalition will make available to all CNHE members through defined practice, the use of the Coalition's Green Health Care Listserv to allow members easy access to best practices, and networking opportunities as it relates to greening health care,
13. CNHE will encourage its members to contribute content to the Coalition on topics of best practice for the purpose of creating co-branded best practice case studies and discussion papers,
14. The Coalition will provide all design and editing services for co-branded best practice case studies and discussion papers,
15. CNHE and the Coalition will jointly promote and distribute co-branded documents,
16. CNHE and the CCGHC will continue to jointly promote each other's mandates wherever possible including the promotion of membership in each other's organisations,
17. CNHE and the Coalition will promote each other's Awards,
18. CNHE will work collaboratively with the Coalition and other partners to develop a national Green Health Care Award,
19. CNHE will work collaboratively with the Coalition and other partners where appropriate to take advantage of third-party funding opportunities where a mutual benefit can be derived.

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