

**Draft Media Advisory:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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



CNHE/IISE

**Canadian Nurses for Health & the Environment
Infirmières et Infirmiers pour la Santé et l'Environnement**

CANADA'S NURSES AND THE COALITION FOR GREEN HEALTH CARE PARTNER TO CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHIER, SAFER AND ECONOMICAL ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO TAR SANDS EXPANSION

Toronto, Ontario. November 3th, 2013 –

At this critical time for health, safety, social justice and economical sustainability for Canadians locally and globally, the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care and Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment announce their alliance, endorsed by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. This partnership will allow these partners to collaboratively work together in highlighting environmental health and safety concerns including enabling tar sands expansion through pipelines and to recommendations instead for safer, healthier and more sustainable energy alternatives.

Despite industry and government policies and practices to mitigate the adverse effects of this industry, tar and oil sand extraction, transport and use may destroy the ecosystem, including boreal forests and exponentially increase air pollution and greenhouse gases, contaminate entire waterways and ground water, leak toxic chemicals such as Freon, violate aboriginal rights and exacerbate negative health outcomes as well as a wide range of adverse health effects related to temperature change and extreme weather events. Growing concerns include invasive species as a consequence of climate change effects which contribute to disruption and deterioration of ecosystems. The Line 9 pipeline crosses all tributaries that go into Ontario's Great Lakes and is the same age and made of the same material as the pipeline that spilled into Kalamazoo River in Michigan recently.

Furthermore, there is also slower growth in world oil demand, increased energy efficiency, growing alternative fuels such as ethane and by-products of natural gas production, and possible caps on global warming emissions of carbon dioxide to consider.

As long as most of the efforts are put into expanding fossil fuel extraction, there is less emphasis and funding on the search for realistic, sustainable energy alternatives.

Therefore, the Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment and the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care is recommending:

1. Moratorium on tar sands and pipeline expansion until thorough, accurate consultation has been completed
2. Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment that includes key expert stakeholders providing their input into concerns related to environmental, economic, social and cultural factors including how vulnerable groups will be impacted

3. Federal and provincial legislation and fiscal investment in promotion of educational programs including materials and public policies that will advance energy conservation
4. Federal and provincial legislation to invest in research, development and promotion of public awareness of renewable, sustainable energy strategy for Canada that will allow Canada to reduce carbon emission by 80% by 2050

Gideon Forman, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment states: "*Our doctors' organization urges a moratorium on tar sands development. This is because climate change is the most pressing environmental issue we face and tar sands oil is one of the most climate-destructive forms of petroleum.*"

Partnership contract will be signed at Health Achieve, Toronto's Metro Convention Centre 1:30 P.M. on November 4th at the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care Booth on the Green Lane

The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care is Canada's premier integrated green health care resource network; a national voice and catalyst for environmental change. For over ten years, the Coalition has been helping those working in health care facilities, non-governmental and governmental organisations, 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. Together with our members, volunteers and supportive health care community, we strive to reduce health care's ecological impact from compassionate care delivery while providing a nurturing platform upon which to discuss and promote best practices, innovation and environmental responsibility. www.greenhealthcare.ca

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The Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment (an Associate Group of CNA), recognized as a leader in the promotion of environmental stewardship, ecological footprint reduction and focus on sustainable health care solutions represents Registered Nurses nationally who are dedicated to improving and promoting excellence in environmental health nursing practices in all domains of nursing practice.

CNHE provides a venue for RN's to profile, enhance and engage, with a united voice, environmental work municipally, provincially, territorially, federally and internationally to influence environmental public policies and support inter-professional and inter-sectorial approaches to environmental health practice, education, research and policy. www.cnhe-iise.ca

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