

**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 A UNIFIED, EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Toronto, Ontario. November 12th, 2013 –

At this critical time for action on climate change, the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care and Canadian Nurses for Health and the Environment announce their alliance. This partnership will allow these teams to proactively and collaboratively work together to prepare Canadian health care facilities to the devastating impacts of climate change rather than to have no actions addressing this vital concern as just demonstrated in the Philippines with the worst typhoon in their history.

Our Canadian populations are just as vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Climate-related hazards and extreme weather events (e.g. storms, floods, wildfires and extreme temperature events) and the risks of some infectious diseases (vector-, water- and food-borne) and air and water pollution are expected to create risks that can disrupt the lives of numerous Canadians. It is necessary for health care providers and organizations to be able to provide coordinated, effective, optimal responses to meet these extraordinary demands for limited critical health care resources. Infrastructures and current systems can be damaged which may compromise the health and safety of the most vulnerable populations and patients, visitors and staff.

Members of the alliance perceive the importance of answering the World Health Organization's call to action to prepare health care providers and their allies for climate change by increasing resiliency, and reducing risks of climate change through proper management of critical resources (e.g. pharmaceuticals, food, transportation, medical supplies and equipment). Additionally, these partners know the necessity of continuously considering mainstreaming climate change into risk assessments, as a component when developing plans and activities and engaging in broader community discussions and initiatives around climate-related issues. For example, health care and public health professionals and staff, can prepare for climate change by assessing risks from extreme weather events, readiness to manage climate-related infectious disease outbreaks or atypical cases and increasing understanding of how gradual shifts in weather can affect risk profile. Furthermore, resilient health care facilities will invest in reducing operating costs and increase community resiliency by committing to sustainable practices, such as water and energy conservation, promoting active transportation, and local food procurement.

Partnership contract was signed at Health Achieve, Toronto's Metro Convention Centre 5:30 P.M. on November 5th 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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