

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Improving the Public Communication of Chemical-related Health Risks

University of Ottawa

Location: Senate Room (TBT 083), 550 Cumberland St., Tabaret Hall
September 30 and October 1, 2009

Background:

The public often receives multiple messages about the nature and magnitude of chemical-related health risks. These can range from concerns about possible or emerging risks to scientific risk assessments and the legal and institutional arrangements used to manage the assessed risks.

Risk communication serves to inform the public so that appropriate and timely actions can be taken to mitigate or prevent adverse health consequences. As such, tools and guidance on the accurate and informative communication of risks can assist diverse policy makers, industry and health professionals to foster better informed societal responses to risk, or emerging risk, situations.

This Workshop assesses two recent risk communication issues – Bisphenol A (BPA) and Urban use of Pesticides – with a view to learning from them in order to fulfill the Workshop's objective (outlined below).

Workshop Objectives:

To identify best practices and other considerations that would assist policy makers, and diverse public professionals, to improve the practice of risk communication in Canada so as to build public understanding of: (i) chemical-related health risks; and (ii) the ways in which these risks can be appropriately addressed.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1 – Wednesday September 30, 2009
University of Ottawa, Tabaret Hall, Senate Room (083)

8:30 am	Registration and Continental breakfast
9:00 am to 9:10 am	Introduction and Welcome Amardeep Khosla – Executive Director, Environmental Health Industry Coordinating Group
9:10 am to 9:25 am	Overview of workshop themes and background document. Dr. Daniel Krewski – Director, McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment, University of Ottawa
9:25 am to 9:30 am	Questions for clarification
9:30 am to 10:00 am	Case Study 1: Bisphenol A (BPA): science, policy options and risk communication: Dr. Warren Foster , Professor, Centre for Reproductive Care, McMaster University
10:00 am to 10:10 am	Questions for clarification
10:10 am to 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am to 11:20 am	Breakout groups. Discussion of case study 1: BPA <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the public told about the nature of the risk issue? 2. Were the risk messages provided to the public accurate and complete? 3. If not, what risk information should have been provided to the public?
11:20 am to 12:00 pm	Report – breakout groups 4 rapporteurs
12:00 pm to 1:10 pm	Lunch Speaker (12:45pm- 1:10pm): To worry or not to worry, that's the question? Dr. Joe Schwarcz - Director, Office for Science and Society, McGill University
1:10 pm to 1:40 pm	Case Study 2: Urban use of pesticides: science, policy options and risk communication: Dr. Leonard Ritter , Professor, Dept. of Environmental Biology, Guelph University
1:40 pm to 1:50 pm	Questions for clarification
1:50 pm to 2:40 pm	Breakout groups. Discussion of case study2: Urban use of pesticides <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the public told about the nature of the risk issue? 2. Were the risk messages provided to the public accurate and complete? 3. If not, what risk information should have been provided to the public?
2:40 pm to 3:20 pm	Report - breakout groups 4 rapporteurs
3:20 pm to 3:40 pm	Break

Panel discussion – Stakeholder Perspectives on Risk Communication

3:40 pm to 4:40 pm	<p>Stakeholder opening statement followed by panel discussion in plenary</p> <p>Panel moderator: Dr. Steve Hrudehy, University of Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Health professionals</u>: Dr. Maura Ricketts, Canadian Medical Association - <u>Government</u>: Karen Lloyd, Health Canada - <u>Industry</u>: Michael Bourque, VP Public Affairs, Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (CCPA) - <u>NGO</u>: Kathleen Cooper, Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) - <u>Media</u>: Peter Calamai, Adjunct Professor, School of Journalism and Communications, Carleton University
4:40 pm to 5:10 pm	Panel discussion in plenary
5:10 pm to 5:25 pm	Summary day 1: Dr. Daniel Krewski , University of Ottawa
7:00pm	<p>Dinner –Resto-Pub Jazzy, UOttawa campus, University Centre, 85 University St.</p> <p>Keynote speaker – <i>A Journalist's Perspective on Risk Communication</i> Kathryn O'Hara, CTV Chair in Science Broadcast Journalism, Carleton University</p>
<p>Day 2 – Thursday October 1, 2009 University of Ottawa, Senate Room (083)</p>	
<p>Improving Risk Communication</p>	
8:30 am	Continental breakfast
9:00 am to 9:10 am	<p>Objectives for Day 2</p> <p>Amardeep Khosla, Environmental Health Industry Coordinating Group</p>
9:10 am to 9:50 am	<p><i>Improving Risk Communication: the UK Science Media Centre Experience</i></p> <p>Fiona Fox, Director – Science Media Centre (UK)</p>
9:50 am to 10:00 am	<p>Identification of key issues discussed in day 1</p> <p>Dr. Daniel Krewski, University of Ottawa</p>
10:00 am to 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am to 11:45 am	Working session – Group discussion on how to improve the practice of risk communication for chemicals
11:45 am to 12:00 pm	<p>Summary and next steps</p> <p>Daniel Krewski, University of Ottawa</p>
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Adjournment