



# Chronic Diseases in Canada

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## *Supplement*

### ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES WORKSHOP

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Health and Welfare  
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social  
Canada

Canada

## Recommendations

1. There should be minimum educational requirements established for those using the term clinical ecologist. "Environmental physician" would better denote an M.D. with interest and training in environmental medicine.
2. A central registry should be developed of physicians who have appropriate training in this field, and who are sympathetic to the plight of those with environmental sensitivities.
3. These proceedings, and the results of the Ontario Ministry of Health Studies on Food Allergy should be published in widely-read medical journals to raise professional awareness.
4. Health and Welfare Canada and/or the CPHA should sponsor a national conference on environmental sensitivities, and devise a format for more local awareness-raising seminars.
5. Provincial ministries of health, provincial hospital associations, and provincial medical associations should sponsor provincial conferences, and include university educators.
6. Knowledge of environmental sensitivities should be imparted to medical students and to practising physicians through CME programs.
7. The Allergy Information Association, and the Allergy and Environmental Health Association should co-sponsor workshops to draw together the different players who are essential from the environmentally sensitive consumer's point of view.
8. Other groups of doctors besides allergists should receive patient information and newsletters from the Allergy Information Association and the Allergy and Environmental Health Association.
9. GPs should be the frontline workers, referring appropriately to specialists, and then co-ordinating treatment plans.
10. A few specialized teams should be developed across the country to act as resources to deal with environmental illness particularly in its severe form.
11. The public, patients' organizations, physicians and MPs should continue to exhort all levels of government, as this will encourage the development of further government health policies regarding environmental sensitivities, and acceptable public education literature, and, ultimately, a health promotion campaign.
12. Focus should be maintained on the "wellness" or "green" model of the health of the whole patient and the whole environment.
13. Environmentally sensitive patients should not be dismissed as "neurotic", but receive respect and support.
14. Physicians who show interest in the field should not be stigmatized, and should be adequately compensated for the time they spend with patients with complicated illnesses.
15. Health and Welfare Canada should consult with provincial ministries of health to ensure appropriate medical care is provided to environmentally sensitive patients.
16. Education and policy initiatives should initially take place in areas where there is the most sympathy regarding environmental sensitivities, and the most willingness to change.
17. Ways should be found to help patients while epidemiological research proceeds.
18. A pilot study should be done in a selected community, of the prevalence of environmental sensitivities, the needs of patients and models for treatment. Application for grant money to get the various agencies and interest groups together for such a project should be made to N.H.R.D.P. or other agencies with available funds.
19. Disabilities should be rated functionally rather than diagnostically in considering eligibility for pensions/social assistance.
20. Provincial ministries of health, which license insurance companies, should ensure there is no discrimination against environmentally sensitive patients with regard to payment for medications, assistive devices and other illness-related expenses.

Thank You.