Stakeholder Engagement

Health Canada – PAHO Workshop
Lima, Peru
November 8-10, 2016
Outline

• Background and objectives
• Framework for stakeholder engagement and public outreach (as interconnected functions)
• Current approach and activities
• Observations from the Canadian experience
Objectives of Stakeholder Engagement

- Ensuring CMP decision-making informed by input from broad range of expertise and viewpoints
- Fostering transparent and predictable decision-making and communication of program activities
- Providing stakeholders with information and mechanisms to support their involvement in program implementation and development
- Ensure early engagement of stakeholders throughout the process
CMP Engagement and Public Outreach Framework

**Engagement for the CMP**

- Industry Stakeholders
  - Program-wide
  - Sector-specific

- Other Engaged Stakeholders and Partners
  - CMP capacity building partners (CNHHE, AFN, ITK)
  - Environmental and health NGOs
  - Academics and researchers
  - Health professionals, early childhood educators, etc.
  - Federal-Provincial

- Program Websites including Inquiry Lines
  - e.g. Chemical Substances, Toxic Substances, New Substances, CEPA Registry

- Publications
  - e.g. CMP Progress Report, CMP Factsheets, Technical Publications such as risk assessments of new and existing substances, compliance promotion materials

- Consultation Documents
  - e.g. State of Science Reports, draft risk assessments, draft risk management documents

- CMP Stakeholder Advisory Council
- CEPA Industry Coordinating Group (ICG)
- Sector Working Groups
- Information Sessions
  - e.g. face to face workshops, webinars, conferences, trade shows

**Risk Communications/Outreach to Canadians on potential risks and safe use of chemicals**

- General Public
  - Including vulnerable populations (in particular parents of young children, seniors), Aboriginal peoples, Canadians as consumers, etc.

- Websites
  - e.g. Chemical Substances website, Canada.ca/health

- Publications
  - e.g. “Chemicals at a glance”, “Chemicals and Your Health”, CMP Factsheets, “Hazardcheck”, “Seniors Environmental Health Guide”

- Social Media
  - e.g. Healthy Canadians Facebook, Twitter and CNHHE Facebook

- Trade Shows and Awareness Raising Events

- Media Outreach and Inquiries

- Marketing Activities and Campaigns

Note: This listing of activities is not intended to be comprehensive.
Current Approach: Overview

- Stakeholder engagement recognised as a program strength and has been a key CMP success
- Overarching strategy for stakeholder engagement
  - Built on principles of transparency, accountability, predictability
  - Developed and implemented through consultation with stakeholders
- Approach includes the following main areas of activities:
  - Supporting consultation and gathering input
  - Building stakeholder relationships and stakeholder capacity to participate
  - Advisory bodies
  - Providing accessible information to stakeholders
Current Approach: Overview of Activities under CMP

- **Public comment periods** – allow for input on proposed RA and RM decisions
- **CMP Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC)** – multi-stakeholder committee that invites input and fosters dialogue on CMP implementation
- **Chemical Substances website** - includes email subscription service to “CMP Latest News” (over 1200 subscribers)
- **Information/Workshop Sessions** – face-to-face workshops, webinars, conferences to share information and seek feedback, sec. 71 etc.
- **Other Publications** - such as CMP Progress Report, Fact Sheets
- **Consultation Documents** - allows for input on proposed RA and RM activities via Public Comment periods
- **CEPA Industry Coordinating Group (ICG)** - meets 2/year on CMP and sub-committees provide advice on CMP from industry perspective
- **CMP Capacity Building Support to environmental health and Aboriginal groups**
- **CMP Science Committee** – created to contribute expertise pertaining to scientific considerations moving forward in the CMP
- **Sector Working Groups**
Current Approach: Supporting Consultations and Gathering Input

- 60-day mandatory public comment periods on:
  - Draft risk assessment reports
  - Proposed risk management measures
  - Proposals to add substances to the List of Toxic Substances

- In addition, consultation documents for public review and comment on early assessment approaches/strategies, guidance documents and technical approaches, state of science reports

- Mandatory and voluntary information gathering from stakeholders on substances (e.g., section 71 surveys)
Current Approach: Building Stakeholder Relationships

• **CEPA Industry Coordinating Group (ICG)** - meets 2/year on CMP and sub-committees provide advice on CMP from industry perspective

• **Information/Workshop Sessions** – face-to-face workshops, webinars, conferences to share information and seek feedback on specific topics (Section 71 mandatory information gathering surveys, Domestic Substances Inventory update, Substance Grouping approaches, non-industry webinars, etc.)

• **Sector Working Groups** – discuss sector specific issues related to assessment and risk management (e.g., paints and coatings, automotive, petroleum, etc.)

• **Multi-stakeholder Workshops held twice a year**
Current Approach: Building Stakeholder Capacity to Participate

• In order to ensure a balance of stakeholder perspectives in the CMP, the engagement of non-governmental and indigenous organizations is key.

• Helps to complement engagement by industry.

• These non-industry organizations, unlike their industry counterparts, are often not funded, so Health Canada has provided funding to these organizations in order to build capacity of their stakeholders to actively participate in the CMP, i.e. “capacity building”.

• Reaches a broader Canadian audience than we ever could by using existing stakeholder mechanisms and improves our understanding on how to communicate to NGO audiences and indigenous Canadians.

• The overarching objectives for capacity building:
  – INFO-IN: That the CMP be informed by the perspectives from NGOs and Indigenous Canadians (e.g., early engagement, public comments)
  – INFO-OUT: That CMP results are communicated out to NGOs and Indigenous Canadians.
Current Approach: Capacity Building (continued)

Health and Environment Non-Government Organizations

- During the first phase of the CMP, the New Brunswick Lung Association (NBLA) was awarded a contract from HC to establish the Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment (CNHHE) (2008), and were later awarded a contract to continue with the initiative (2012).

- The CNHHE was established to conduct outreach on the CMP, to build capacity among health and environment non-government organizations (NGOs) and their affiliated members to participate in CMP processes (e.g., public comments). Other activities included active use of social media, newsletters and webinars.

- Open and competitive process currently underway to secure NGO capacity building partner for current phase of the CMP.
Indigenous Groups

- Health Canada provides funding to two national indigenous organizations - the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) for the purpose of building capacity of Indigenous peoples to actively participate in the CMP.

- Indigenous peoples have unique exposures and perspectives that are important to be considered in the CMP and the capacity building funding ensures that the resources and necessary conduits are in place to allow for this input to feed both into the CMP and back to the communities as well.
Current Approach: Advisory Bodies

CMP Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC)

• Multi-stakeholder group that provides opportunity to offer advice and input to Government on the implementation of the CMP, and to foster dialogue between stakeholders and government, and among different stakeholder groups.

• Issues may include risk assessment, risk management, risk communications, monitoring, research, indicators of success, chemical policy, and other cross-cutting, integrated activities across the CMP.

• Meets twice a year, spring and fall.
Current Approach: Advisory Bodies (continued)

CMP Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC)
- Members represent industry and national indigenous organizations, Consumer groups, Environmental Non-Government Organizations, Health Non-Government Organizations
- Current membership includes the following organizations:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Non-Industry</th>
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<tr>
<td>CEPA Industry Coordinating Group</td>
<td>Assembly of First Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Tire Corporation</td>
<td>Canadian Environmental Law Association</td>
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<td>Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association</td>
<td>Canadian Paediatric Society</td>
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<td>Canadian Cosmetic Toiletry and Fragrance Association</td>
<td>Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba</td>
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<td>Canadian Paint and Coatings Association</td>
<td>Ecojustice</td>
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<td>Canadian Steel Producers Association</td>
<td>Environmental Defence</td>
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<td>Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association</td>
<td>Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)</td>
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<td>Chemistry Industry Association of Canada</td>
<td>Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council</td>
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<td>Consumers Council of Canada</td>
<td>National Network on Environments and Women's Health</td>
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<td>Mining Association of Canada</td>
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<td>Responsible Distribution Canada</td>
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<td>Retail Council of Canada</td>
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Current Approach: Advisory Bodies (continued)

**CMP Science Committee**

- Created to contribute expertise pertaining to scientific considerations moving forward in the CMP, with experts from EU, US, regulators, industry, academia
- Meets twice per year (topics vary: communicating uncertainty in assessments, use of read-across)
- Members of the CMP science committee contribute their scientific expertise and do not represent their organizations or affiliations:
  - Mr. Geoff Granville (co-chair)
  - Dr. Barbara Hales (co-chair)
  - Dr. Jonathan Martin
  - Mr. Greg Paoli
  - Dr. Don Wilke
  - Dr. Sylvain Bintein
  - Dr. Peter Campbell
  - Dr. Nicola Cherry
  - Ms. Elaine Cohen Hubal
  - Dr. Miriam Diamond
CEPA National Advisory Committee (CEPA NAC)

- Main intergovernmental forum for the purpose of enabling national action and avoiding duplication in regulatory activity among governments within Canada (federal, provincial and territories)

- CEPA NAC members regularly informed of publications and opportunities for comments
Current Approach: Providing Accessible Information to Stakeholders

- **Chemical Substances website**
- **Email subscription service** to “CMP Latest News” (over 1100 subscribers)
- **General Publications** - such as CMP Progress Report, Fact Sheets, technical guidance documents and compliance promotion material
- **Inquiry Line** (3600 of inquiries/interactions a year)
Observations from the Canadian Experience

• Effective stakeholder engagement offers many benefits including better data and information, as well as improved decision making.

• Predictability, transparency, accountability are guiding principles and key priorities.

• Mechanisms for addressing principles include:
  – Clear and predictable communication (e.g., published timelines and results, regular progress reports).
  – Providing multiple opportunities for engagement and consultation (e.g., public comment periods, webinars) and ongoing support throughout the process (e.g., inquiry line).
  – Engaging stakeholders early on.
  – Establishing fora for engagement with a variety of stakeholders (e.g., advisory bodies).
  – Building capacity with non-industry stakeholders to enable broad participation.
Questions/Comments
Annex:
CMP Process and Milestones
CMP Process and Milestones: Opportunities for Engagement

**Acronyms**
- **CEPA**: Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999
- **RM**: Risk Management
- **S**: Section of CEPA

**Canada’s Risk Assessment and Management of Existing Substances**

Regular opportunities for stakeholders to comment on risk Assessment reports and risk management documents and/or actions.