

January 2007

# AN OUNCE

A CANADA-WIDE MOVEMENT TO ELIMINATE THE PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF CANCER



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ [Conference Update: Cancer: It's About Prevention, It's About Time](#)
- ▶ [Study Links Childhood Cancer to Air Pollution Chemicals](#)
- ▶ [Household Pesticide Use and Increased Breast Cancer Incidence](#)
- ▶ [Firefighters Face Increased Risk for Some Cancers](#)
- ▶ [In the News](#)
- ▶ [About Us](#)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR CONFERENCE UPDATE

### CANCER: IT'S ABOUT PREVENTION. IT'S ABOUT TIME!

Plans for Canada's first national conference on cancer prevention are well under way. The Conference will be held at the University of Ottawa May 24-27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Outstanding keynote speakers who have confirmed include:

- ❖ **Dr. Devra Davis**, author of *When Smoke Ran Like Water*
- ❖ **Sandra Steingraber**, cancer survivor, poet, mother of two and author of *Living Downstream* and *Having Faith*;
- ❖ **Larry Stoffman**, Chair of the National Committee on Environmental and Occupational Exposures, Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control; and
- ❖ **Beverley Thorpe**, Clean Production Action.

You will be able to select from a wide range of participatory workshops on primary cancer prevention and strategies for positive change. Workshop leaders include:

- ❖ **Debra Lynn Dadd**, author of the acclaimed 'bible' of green living, *Home Safe Home*,
- ❖ **Madeleine Bird**, Breast Cancer Action Montreal, on toxic personal products and their alternatives,
- ❖ Representatives of BC's **Labour Environmental Alliance Society** (LEAS), and many more!

Thursday evening will feature the global launch of the book, *Cancer: 101 Solutions to a Preventable Epidemic*, by Liz Armstrong, Guy Dauncey, and Anne Wordsworth (New Society Publishers)

We will offer fully accessible venues and sessions, organic + locally produced food, and a low waste, 'green' conference.

Opportunities to offset the cost of travel, registration, and accommodation through participation in the 2007 Run, Walk, and Roll are available.

- ❖ **DATE:** Thursday evening, May 24 to Sunday noon, May 27, 2007
- ❖ **LOCATION:** University of Ottawa, downtown Ottawa
- ❖ **COST:** \$250 per person (some subsidies available). The registration fee includes all sessions, breakfasts, and lunches on site.
- ❖ **ACCOMMODATION:** University of Ottawa residence. There are 200, two-bedroom suites set aside for conference registrants on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for more information on the rooming options and rates.
- ❖ **Registration** will begin *on-line* at [www.PreventCancerNow.ca](http://www.PreventCancerNow.ca) in early February, 2007.

## NEW STUDY LINKS THE RISK OF CHILDHOOD CANCER WITH HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS

A study initiated by the Houston Health Department in Texas has found that cancer risks are greater for children who live close to the Houston Ship Channel and adjacent industrial plants.

The 18-month study examined Harris County, Texas, cancer cases from 1995 to 2003 and emissions including 1,3-butadiene and benzene. It's the first study to identify a possible link between cancer risks and toxic air pollution in Harris County.

The study was conducted by the University of Texas School of Public Health. It was funded by the Houston Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control.

The study found that children living within 2 miles of the Ship Channel had a 56 percent higher risk of getting acute lymphocytic leukemia than children living more than 10 miles from the channel.

It also found that compared with children living in areas with the lowest estimated 1,3-butadiene levels, children living in areas with the highest levels had a 40 percent, 38 percent and 153 percent increased risk of developing any type of leukemia, acute lymphocytic leukemia and acute myeloid leukemia, respectively.

For more on the study, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/UT-executive.html>

## STUDY LINKS PESTICIDE USE IN HOMES WITH BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE

After concerns about high breast cancer rates among women in Long Island, New York spurred the creation of the Long Island Breast Cancer Project, its research has found a link between breast cancer and household pesticide use.

According to TopCancerNews.com, the study, which was published in the December 13 American Journal of

Epidemiology, found an increased breast cancer risk for women whose blood samples showed the highest levels of organochlorine compounds.

For more, visit <http://www.topcancernews.com/news/544/1/Scientists-advice---stop-using-pesticides!>

## FIREFIIGHTERS FACE INCREASED RISK FOR SOME CANCERS

University of Cincinnati researchers have determined firefighters face a marked increase in incidence of four types of cancer than workers in other fields. They are twice as likely to develop testicular cancer and have significantly higher rates of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and prostate cancer than non-firefighters. The researchers also confirmed previous findings that firefighters are at greater risk for multiple myeloma.

The study by Grace LeMasters, PhD, Ash Genaidy, PhD, and James Lockey, MD, was published in the November edition of the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*.

Firefighters are exposed to many carcinogens, including benzene, diesel engine exhaust, chloroform, soot, styrene and formaldehyde. These substances can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin and occur both at the scene of a fire and in the firehouse, where idling diesel fire trucks produce diesel exhaust.

Evidently, the protective equipment firefighters use is inadequate to protect against cancer-causing agents they encounter. Furthermore, changing practices like idling indoors, converting diesel engines to cleaner burning engines, and banning carcinogenic chemicals in everyday use would go a long way to reducing the harmful exposures of firefighters.

For more on this study, you can visit the University of Cincinnati website at: <http://healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/3750>

## IN THE NEWS:

[Click on title to follow link to more information](#)

[Report shows cancer services are improving, but more action needed on prevention and early detection](#)

The Ontario Cancer Plan: 2006-07 Annual Progress Report released January 26th shows that cancer prevention, detection and treatment has improved this past year, but more action is needed to reduce cancer risks and ensure timely, high quality care is delivered consistently across the province.

[Breast cancer screening harms ten women for every one it helps](#)

A new study by researchers from the Nordic Cochrane Centre in Denmark found that mammograms may harm ten times as many women as they help. The researchers examined the benefits and negative effects of seven breast cancer screening programs on 500,000 women in the United States, Canada, Scotland and Sweden. The study's authors found that for every 2,000 women who received

mammograms over a 10-year period, only one would have her life prolonged, but 10 would endure unnecessary and potentially harmful treatments.

[Flavones and flavonols linked to lower kidney cancer risk](#)

Increased intake of flavonoids, particularly, flavones and flavonols could cut the risk of kidney cancer by 32 and 31 per cent, respectively, says a new study from Italy.

## ABOUT PREVENT CANCER NOW (PCN)

**Our purpose** is to build and sustain a Canada-wide movement that will generate the resolve and the actions required to eliminate the preventable causes of cancer.

**Our goals** are:

- To create a broadly-based, national movement for cancer prevention and environmental health promotion encompassing environmental, labour, business, health, science, aboriginal, women's, children's, and other sectors of Canadian society.
- To work toward the eradication of environmental and workplace exposures to carcinogens and other health hazards that cause thousands of Canadians to become ill and die from cancers that could be prevented.
- To educate the public on the dangers of cancer-causing exposures, and actions that individuals, businesses, governments, and society as a whole can take to reduce or eliminate these exposures.
- To promote and improve existing and new federal, provincial and municipal legislation, standards, regulations, and policies that will protect both public health and the health of workers exposed to carcinogens on the job.
- To promote the use of the precautionary principle to protect Canada's people and environment from exposures that cause cancer and undermine immunity.
- To foster local, provincial, national, and international connections to broaden and deepen Canada's cancer prevention movement.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN CANCER PREVENTION.

We hope you will join us in making cancer prevention a priority in Canada and around the world.

With your donation, Prevent Cancer Now will be a leading advocate for changing the way we all approach the cancer issue. Together, we can shift the focus from dealing with the tail end of the problem of cancer at the expense of preventing it.

PLEASE support our work so that we can continue to advocate for cancer prevention with government and other decision makers, to foster a growing network of groups and individuals sharing a common goal of prevention, and to bring together the latest research and experts at our national Cancer Prevention Conference in 2007.

Thanks so much, and keep in touch!

*Angela Rickman*  
**PREVENT CANCER NOW**