

For Immediate Release

Saskatoon Health Region and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre:
Recognizing the Link between Human and Environmental Health

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Saskatoon, SK- Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) has licensed the Energy Awareness (EA) program from the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES). ENERGY AWARENESS is a workplace-training program that educates employees on how to be more energy and water efficient while reducing waste.

“SES' Energy Awareness program will provide our employees with the information and tools they need to reduce the burden our facilities place on the environment and will help them be more energy and water conscious in their own homes.... this program is of clear benefit to the Saskatoon Health Region” says sustainability coordinator Jocelyn Orb.

Jocelyn Orb reminds people that the link between environmental and human health is clear. According to the David Suzuki Foundation *“Air pollution [due to harmful toxins released from current energy sources] is a significant environmental health problem... It leads to more premature deaths than traffic accidents annually in Canada... across Canada; asthma causes 500 deaths and imposes direct health care costs of \$600 million annually.”* The Canadian Institute of Child Health says that *“exposure to toxic substances in the environment has likely contributed to a 25 per cent increase in childhood cancer over the past 25 years.”*

Beverley Townsend, Manager of Environmental Sustainability at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto agrees. *“The Ontario government estimates that the health and environmental costs of air pollution in our province alone are more than \$9 billion annually. At Sunnybrook we've recognized the environmental issues that we face, and now we need to provide the tools and the education to make the necessary improvements. This ENERGY AWARENESS program will facilitate this and benefit the staff here immensely.”* Sunnybrook has licensed ENERGY AWARENESS for its staff of 10,000.

Energy Awareness was developed for the people of Saskatchewan, but has now received national recognition.

Saskatchewan Environmental Society is a non-profit organization that has been helping people live sustainable lives since 1972. ENERGY AWARENESS is a program offered by SES for all workplaces. If you are interested in ENERGY AWARENESS training, contact Angie Bugg (Energy Conservation Projects Coordinator) at (306) 664-2656, Melissa Strom (Energy Conservation Projects Marketer) at (306) 220-4165, or SES at (306) 665-1615.

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