The Chemistry Industry: A strong partner to Canada's chemicals management plan

The Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) is achieving its objective of reducing risks posed by chemicals to Canadians and their environment. Continued success requires that any amendments to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) continue to incorporate and/or adopt the following key elements:

Maintain enabling legislation

- The science- and risk-based, weight of evidence approach to risk assessment and risk management decisions must be preserved
- Expert assessors should be provided discretion and flexibility to assess an array of different chemical risks and to choose from a broad range of risk-management tools

Support innovation

- The CMP must continue to be world-leading and cutting-edge
- New Approach Methodologies should continue to be integrated into CMP activities to support future prioritization and risk screening activities under the CMP

Use accurate language to describe risks

- CIAC has been advocating for a nomenclature change to CEPA Schedule 1 since the original CEPA passed in 1999
- The removal of the name "Toxic Substances List" from CEPA Schedule 1 is a positive development that will help prevent consumer confusion and reduce potential investment barriers

Export the North American approach

- Canada's CMP continues to be the global gold standard for chemicals management
- Other jurisdictions including Mexico, Brazil, and Australia – are developing CMP-based approaches to chemicals management
- Canadian officials should partner with foreign jurisdictions to ensure that finished products that come to Canada meet the same environmental rigour as those manufactured here

Preserve the current enforcement approach

- CEPA is a criminal law statute, and it is the obligation of the Crown to carry out litigation
- The right to a healthy environment should be enshrined in the Act and reinforced as an underlying philosophy, consistent with CIAC's Responsible Care[®] ethic

Create a safety valve

- The government should consider a form of "safety valve" that would allow the Governor in Council the right to suspend the application of certain provisions of CEPA during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic
- This would support industry's emergency management and response and provide regulatory clarity during future emergencies



CHEMISTRY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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Canada's CEPA and CMP – A global success story

Chemicals are an integral part of everyday life, essential to our economies, our communities, our homes. Canada's CMP is leading the world in the assessment and management of risks for the full set of existing and new chemicals in the Canadian economy.

Since 1992, as part of their commitment to Responsible Care[®], CIAC members have reduced their releases of substances requiring risk management under CEPA by 62%.

CMP Progress in Reducing Risks from Chemicals



To learn more, visit: canadianchemistry.ca

