Province continues to drag heels on cancer rates

The province has yet to respond to the Conservation Council of New Brunswick’s study that examined 14 cancer types in 14 New Brunswick communities.

The report revealed that some of the province’s most industrialized communities are cancer hot spots.

The report’s author, Inka Milenkiw, says, “The perception has been created that cancer is inevitable, regardless of what you do, you get cancer. That simply is not true.”

By EDEE KEE

There has been a new call to respond to the Conservation Council of New Brunswick’s (CCNB) cancer study which was released on November 15th. The study examined 14 cancers in 14 New Brunswick communities, it found cancer rates with occupational and environmental exposure to pollutants.

The study includes communities such as Dieppe and Saint John where the environmental issues are the highest. In Dieppe, for example, the job sector is high and chemicals are being used.

“We made presentations to the Department of Health, the Department of Environment and the Department of Labour, but they did not respond,” said Milenkiw. “The report has been dropped in the media and that is to say that the province was reviewing the recommendations.”

Part 1 of the study, which was released in June 2009, received the same response.

The province, through the Department of Health, confirmed that her department is still working in collaboration with the Department of Environment and the Department of Labour on the findings of the report but admits that there is no particular time frame in mind.

The report recommends that the province begin public reporting of cancer rates at the community level. More information is needed by altering current health care systems to recognize environmental and occupational health risks.

Milenkiw noted that general health promotion and prevention do not target the work environment to change behaviors that are occurring at the community level. She stresses that reporting at the health region level or the provincial level is not adequate.

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In brief...

A crowd of approximately 50 people gathered in front of the office of the toes, on December 6th, to commemorate the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and to oppose Bill C-300, which passed in the House of Commons. The rally was organized by the Minnesota Women’s Action Network and the National Student Network.

On December 7th, the UN Women’s Network launched an action to resist the proposed law and to challenge the government’s record on women’s rights. The action was organized by the International Women’s Network and the National Women’s Network. It-density was higher in the media and that is to say that the province was reviewing the recommendations.”

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