

**To:** Principals and Vice Principals  
Chairs of School Justice Committees  
Coordinators of Pastoral Services  
**From:** Committee for Social Justice  
**Re:** **Update on Refillable Water Bottle Sales Promotion**  
**Date:** May 22, 2008

In light of recent developments with regard to the use of refillable plastic bottles containing the chemical Bisphenol A, the Committee would like to respond to questions that have arisen around our sales promotion of refillable, hard plastic water bottles.

In April 2008, Health Canada released its Draft Screening Assessment for bisphenol A (the full media release is available at [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2008/2008\\_59\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2008/2008_59_e.html)). Their investigation concluded that the chemical may pose some risk to infants and proposed classifying the chemical as "'toxic' to human health and the environment." This action follows Canadian regulators selection of bisphenol A in 2006 as one of 200 substances deserving of thorough safety assessments after preliminary studies had found it to be "inherently toxic"; the chemical had not previously been studied by them in depth, having been accepted under grandfather clauses when stricter regulations were passed in the 1980s.

Health Canada's screening assessment of bisphenol A primarily focused on its impacts on newborns and infants up to 18 months of age; however, health risks for Canadians of all ages were considered in the screening.

It was determined that the main source of exposure for newborns and infants is through the use of polycarbonate baby bottles when they are exposed to high temperatures and the migration of bisphenol A from cans into infant formula. The scientists concluded in this assessment that bisphenol A exposure to newborns and infants is below levels that may pose a risk, however, the gap between exposure and effect is not large enough.

To be prudent, the Government of Canada is proposing to reduce bisphenol A exposure in infants and newborns by proposing a number of actions: banning polycarbonate baby bottles; developing stringent migration targets for bisphenol A in infant formula cans; working with industry to develop alternative food packaging and develop a code of practice; and listing bisphenol A under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

As such, the Committee offers the following for your consideration.

- There is no requirement to recall the hard plastic water bottles previously made available through the Committee's water campaign.
- These plastic containers should **never** be heated or placed in a microwave with the intention of consuming the heated contents.



- Since there is always some migration of chemicals in **any** plastic container to the liquids they contain, the water bottles should not be used to store water for any long period of time. Water stored in them should be consumed within the school day.
- The containers themselves should be taken home and washed on a regular basis.
- Through its supplier (see details below) the Committee has available for ordering double-walled, 16 ounce, stainless steel containers (may be used for both hot and cold liquids) for, depending on the model selected, a cost of between \$9 and \$11.

**To order, call Multideas Promotions in Kingston at 613-634-2437.**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee by email at [social\\_justice@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:social_justice@alcdsb.on.ca) or by phone at (613) 354-6257 x462.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the water campaign of the Committee for Social Justice.