

# *An Overview of Federal Air Quality Management*

Nova Scotia Air Quality Forum

Environment Canada

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# Overview of Presentation

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- Federal Legislation/Regulations
- Joint Federal-Provincial Processes
- International Agreements

## Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), 1999

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- “An Act respecting pollution prevention and the protection of the environment and human health in order to contribute to sustainable development.”
- Administered by the Minister of Environment with some responsibilities falling to the Minister of Health

## CEPA 1999 (cont'd)

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- Major air quality elements of CEPA:
  - Priority Substances List
  - Schedule 1 (List of Toxic Substances)
  - National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)
  - Authorities related to Vehicles and Fuels
  - Ability to request Pollution Prevention Plans
  - Ability to require compliance with international agreements

# Regulations under CEPA 1999

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- Regulations to establish national emission standards for:
  - On-road vehicles
  - Small spark-ignition engines (lawn and garden equipment)
  - Off-road vehicles (agricultural, construction and forestry machines)
- Regulations setting sulphur content in gasoline and diesel fuels
- Notices published every year to set NPRI reporting criteria
  
- Upcoming Regulations:
  - VOC in Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings
  - Emission standards for marine and off-road recreational vehicles

# Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)

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- Obligates the federal government to review the environmental effects of projects where it has decision-making authority and take action so these projects do not cause significant adverse environmental effects
- Four assessment categories:
  - Screening
  - Comprehensive Study
  - Mediation
  - Panel Review

## Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)

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- Environment Ministers from the federal, provincial and territorial governments
- Sets national environmental priorities and promotes intergovernmental cooperation and a coordinated management approach to issues such as air pollution

# CCME Actions and Priorities

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- Codes of Practice for various industries
  - Used in environmental assessments
- Canada-wide Standards
  - Particulate Matter and Ozone
  - Mercury
  - Dioxins and Furans
- Post-2000 Acid Rain Strategy

# International Strategies and Agreements

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- Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
- Canada-US Air Quality Agreement
  - Ozone Annex
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
  - Convention on the Long-Range Transport of Air Pollutants (LRTAP)

## Conclusions

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- Government of Canada approach to air quality management involves a combination of applying federal laws and regulations, joint cooperation on national standards, and working with international partners
- GoC will continue to work on both the domestic and international fronts to improve air quality and reduce impacts to human health and the environment

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For more information on federal air quality management, visit the Clean Air On-line website at:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur/>