

STOPPING CHEMICAL TRESPASS

Helping to create positive change in the classroom

There are more than 85,000 chemicals currently in use in North America and only 10 per cent of them have been tested for their long-term health and environmental effects. We do know that dozens of everyday products can contain toxic ingredients, with adverse health effects, and we're frequently exposed to them — in the home, in the workplace, in our schools.

Chemical trespass on children

Widespread use of pesticides, for example, has been identified as a major culprit in the steep rise in childhood cancers. The presence of phthalates in cosmetics and beauty products has been linked to a much greater frequency of early puberty in girls. And chemical exposure is a key factor in the huge increase in autism and childhood asthma, which are both occurring at four and five times the rate they did in the 1980s.

Our kids, and the kids we teach, are the innocent victims of what we call "chemical trespass."

For the past five years, LEAS has been a leader in identifying the toxic chemicals that we're exposed to in our homes and communities, seeking to find ways to eliminate them wherever possible.

What can teachers do?

Making students aware of the toxic chemicals they're exposed to, and how they can make changes that benefit their own health and the environment are key learning objectives in today's world. They are the basis of LEAS Chemical Trespass learning resource package which has been designed to fit closely with the Grades 8-11 Science and Social Studies programs, Planning 10 and the requirements for the senior Portfolio.

These are some of the ways to that LEAS can help you deliver a Chemical Trespass program in your classroom:

- o Classroom workshops

LEAS can provide a trained volunteer to present a 1-1.5-hour introductory workshop in your classroom. Contact the LEAS office at 604-669-1921 or info@ec2.leas.ca.

- o Pilot curriculum resource

LEAS has developed a learning resource package, with specific curriculum matches for Science and Socials 8-11 and Planning 10. We're currently looking for teachers to pilot the program in their classroom. Contact LEAS to discuss the program if you're interested and to get a package of the resource materials.

- o Senior Portfolio

LEAS Chemical Trespass program can also provide a complete platform for students to fulfill the requirements of the new Senior Portfolio program. Students can design original works around the program's theme, they can accumulate volunteer hours through workshop presentations, and can develop Portfolio-required information technology and research skills. An exciting component of our program that students can lead is the chemical audit, which reviews products and ingredients used in the school or in the home.

To discuss how you can integrate LEAS Chemical Trespass program with your classroom teaching, contact info@ec2.leas.ca. Or call 604-669-1921.



Labour Environmental Alliance Society

1203-207 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1H7
Tel: 604-669-1921 Fax: 604-696-9627
E-mail: info@ec2.leas.ca www.ec2.leas.ca

