

**Media Release- for immediate release  
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## **Environmental Sensitivities Awareness Day Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — May is “*Environmental Sensitivities Awareness*” month. May 12<sup>th</sup> was chosen as “*Environmental Sensitivities Awareness Day*” because Florence Nightingale’s birthday falls on that day. The Environmental Health Association of Manitoba joins other environmental health associations across Canada and the world in efforts to increase awareness of this potentially disabling condition.

It has been 20 years since the publication of the consensus paper, “*Multiple chemical sensitivity: a 1999 consensus*” <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10444033> and 12 years since the Canadian Human Rights Commission established a policy on environmental sensitives,

[https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/policy\\_sensitivity\\_0.pdf](https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/policy_sensitivity_0.pdf)

yet Manitoba still lacks specialized medical services available in clinics in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

**Ontario:** Environmental Health Clinic – Toronto: “*a unique multidisciplinary clinic and the only one of its kind in Ontario. It was established in 1996 by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to be a provincial resource in promoting environmental health and to improve health care for people with chronic complex environmentally-linked conditions such as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), Fibromyalgia (FM) and Environmental Sensitivities, including both Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (ES/MCS) and Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity*”.

<https://www.womenscolleghospital.ca/programs-and-services/environmental-health-clinic/>

**Nova Scotia** – Integrated Health Care: <http://www.nshealth.ca/content/integrated-chronic-care-service-iccs>

Housing remains the biggest challenge for many with chemical, mould and electrical (electromagnetic) sensitivities. In extreme cases, individuals have had to resort to extreme measures as seen in the short video of Manitoban, Marie LeBlanc. “*This is MCS – Trapped in the Wilderness*”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NFW0y6cl54&feature=youtu.be>

Also see Marie’s website at: <https://www.marieleblanc.net/>

Murray Cunningham of the EHA-Manitoba states: “*EHA-Manitoba is working on researching and testing materials for the construction of safe housing for those with severe environmental sensitivities. The Environmental Health Association of Quebec has embarked on a project to provide 40 safe units in Quebec and we need something like this in Manitoba*”.

<http://www.aseq-ehaq-en.ca/ecoasis.html>

This coming year EHA-Manitoba will continue to advocate for better health services of the type available in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Activities will include preparation of an information package that people can use to educate their health care providers drawing from the 2017 Taskforce Report White Paper from Ontario: “*Time for Leadership: Recognizing and Improving Care for those with ME/CFS, FM and ES/MCS*”

[http://health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/environmental\\_health\\_2017/task\\_force\\_on\\_environmental\\_health\\_report.pdf](http://health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/environmental_health_2017/task_force_on_environmental_health_report.pdf)

EHA-Manitoba wishes EHA-Quebec well in their online conference titled ‘*Environmental Sensitivities: Update 2019*’ to be held on May 12th. All are welcome to attend.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/2?ik=538f1e7da5&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1632846144347970905&siml=msg-f%3A1632846144347970905>

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