

*For Immediate Release*  
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## **ONTARIO TO PROTECT FAMILIES' HEALTH WITH TOUGH NEW STANDARDS** *Updated Air Standards Will Better Protect Ontarians From Lead And Other Harmful Substances*

TORONTO — The Ontario government is further protecting the health of families, improving air quality and reducing pollution by proposing tough new or updated standards for 15 harmful substances, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today at the 2006 Smog Summit co-hosted by the Clean Air Partnership and the City of Toronto.

“All Ontario families want to breathe cleaner, safer air,” said Broten. “That is why we are moving forward with consultation on air standards for 15 more toxic substances. We need to be sure that our standards are based on the best available science.”

The government plans to consult on updating air standards for 15 high-priority substances, including lead. Ontario is proposing to review the limits for the 15 substances based on improved scientific information, updated research on associated health risks and new air dispersion models to provide greater protection of public health and the environment.

“We are pleased to support the Ministry of Environment’s continued efforts to improve local air quality,” said Dr. Garry Aslanyan, President of the Ontario Public Health Association. “Poor air quality negatively affects the health of all Ontarians and results in a significant burden to our health care system. We support moving towards air standards that are protective of health and environmental impacts.”

This initiative is one more way the McGuinty government is protecting Ontarians’ health and the environment. Other initiatives include:

- A requirement of five per cent ethanol in gasoline on average starting January 1, 2007, which will make Ontario gasoline some of the cleanest in North America.
- Contracts for 1,300 megawatts of wind power – enough power for 300,000 homes.
- A target to produce five per cent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2007 and 10 per cent by 2010, putting us at the forefront in North America.

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