The built environment and health

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Documents
Climate Change and Human Health

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CMA POLICY

Background

Climate change threatens human health worldwide. The impacts of climate change on human health are already being felt, and will become more severe with continued climate change.

The Canadian Medical Association recommends the following actions:

1. Healthy public policy and planning
2. Increased research
3. Public education
4. Mitigation
5. Adaptation

With respect to healthy public policy and planning:

a) Support and participate in national and international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change.

b) Support and collaborate with others to anticipate and adapt to climate change impacts. This includes: urban planning; community infrastructure; emergency preparedness; water and waste management; agriculture; and public health and health care services.

c) Advocate for the implementation of policies that promote healthy climates and healthy communities.

With respect to increased research:

- Support and collaborate with others to conduct relevant research, including: monitoring; modeling; and developing evidence-based policies.

With respect to public education:

- Support and participate in activities that educate the public about the health effects of climate change and the importance of action.

With respect to mitigation:

- Support and collaborate with others to implement measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as: energy efficiency; and the use of renewable energy sources.

With respect to adaptation:

- Support and collaborate with others to develop and implement measures that help communities adapt to climate change, such as: improved water management; and disaster preparedness.

These recommendations are based on scientific evidence and are consistent with the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

This policy is supported by the Canadian Medical Association and its members.