



October 16, 2023

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Minister David Piccini
 Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
 Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
 Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Piccini:

Re: Calls for expansion of outdoor air quality monitoring stations and the Air Quality Health Index across Northern Ontario

Expanding air quality monitoring stations across Northern Ontario, to provide comprehensive data to inform the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), is needed now more than ever.

With climate change, wildfire is an increasing risk, particularly in Northern Ontario. Exposure to wildfire smoke can cause health impacts including headaches, cough, dizziness, chest pains, shortness of breath, asthma attacks and irregular heart beat¹. Some people are at higher risk of health problems when exposed to wildfire smoke, including older adults, pregnant people, people who smoke, infants and young children, people working or exercising outdoors and people with existing illnesses or chronic health conditions².

The AQHI is a tool for Ontarians to be informed of the health risks from local air pollution and take recommended actions to protect their health³. However, many northern Ontario communities do not have local outdoor air monitoring stations and therefore do not benefit from the AQHI.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
 Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
 t: 705.522.9200
 f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
 Unit / Unité 130
 Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
 t: 705.522.9200
 f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
 Box / Boîte 58
 St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
 t: 705.222.9201
 f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
 Unit / Unité 100 C
 Espanola ON P5E 1J3
 t: 705.222.9202
 f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
 Box / Boîte 87
 Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
 t: 705.370.9200
 f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
 Box / Boîte 485
 Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
 t: 705.860.9200
 f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

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