


Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) Program Update

January 29, 2026



Government
of Canada

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Overview

Purpose: To provide an update on key CMP initiatives and key milestones.

- Amendments to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA)
 - The Right to a Healthy Environment
 - Plan of Priorities
 - The Watchlist
 - Consultation document to develop criteria for adding substances to Part 1 of Schedule 1 of CEPA
- Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Initiative
- Plastics Initiatives
- Advancing Red Tape Reduction through the CMP
 - Modernizing the New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms) and New Substances Notification Regulations (Chemicals and Polymers)
- CEPA Registry and Substance Search Modernization Project

? *The presentation will be followed by Qs&As*

Protecting Human Health and the Environment Under CEPA and the CMP

- **CEPA** is the cornerstone federal environmental law to **fight pollution and protect human health and the environment from its harmful effects**

The Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature **jointly administer** parts of CEPA that apply to the **assessment and management of toxic substances to protect human health and the environment**.

- substances under CEPA include **chemicals, nanomaterials, products of biotechnology, air pollutants** and **greenhouse gases**.

The Ministers have other authorities under CEPA:

- Conduct **research on chemicals**, including those that are endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, reproductive toxicants, etc.;
- Develop **objectives, guidelines** (e.g., for environmental quality, drinking water quality, indoor and outdoor air quality); and
- **Communicate** with the public about the effects of substances on human health and the environment.

- **The CMP** is the Government of Canada's program to assess and manage the risks of chemicals using science-based evidence to protect human health and the environment.

Strengthening CEPA

»» In June 2023, CEPA was amended through the *Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act* to **strengthen chemicals management in Canada** <<<

Overarching commitments:

- A new **right to a healthy environment** for every individual in Canada, under CEPA;
- Advancing **Indigenous reconciliation**;
- Considering **Indigenous knowledge, disproportionately impacted populations and vulnerable environments, cumulative effects when assessing risks, and reducing reliance on vertebrate animal testing**; and
- Increasing **openness, transparency and accountability**.

Requirements, including for:

- A **Plan of Priorities** to assess and manage substances;
- An **Implementation Framework for the Right to a Healthy Environment under CEPA**;
- A **Watch List** of substances of potential concern; and
- A **stronger regime** for controlling toxic substances.

The Right to a Healthy Environment under CEPA



The Government of Canada now recognizes that **every individual in Canada has a right to a healthy environment** as provided under CEPA and the **Government has a duty to protect that right** when administering the Act.



Status and Next Steps

- The **Implementation Framework** was published **July 2025** alongside a What We Heard Report.
- The framework helps guide CEPA decision-makers in protecting the right under CEPA.
- A **transition period for implementation** is in place to support continued protection of the environment and human health.
- The CEPA management cycle to address chemicals includes well-established processes that will allow the right to be considered.
- ECCC and HC will work with partners and stakeholders to enable updated approaches under the framework.
- Progress on implementation will be reported in the **CEPA Annual Report**.

The Plan of Priorities



A multi-year plan for addressing substances in Canada with specific priorities for:



- assessment and risk management
- research and monitoring
- information-gathering
- risk communication
- initiatives to replace, reduce, or refine vertebrate animal testing

Status and Next Steps

- The Plan was published in July 2025 alongside a [What We Heard Report](#).
- **Implementation of the Plan is now underway.**
 - Includes substances prioritized for assessment as well as many activities and initiatives.
 - [Workplan](#) for substances prioritized for assessment is available online.
- Engagement and consultation will continue to support openness and transparency in risk assessment and risk management.
- Progress on implementation will be reported in the **CEPA Annual Report**.

The Plan of Priorities: Strategy to Reduce Reliance on Vertebrate Animal Testing



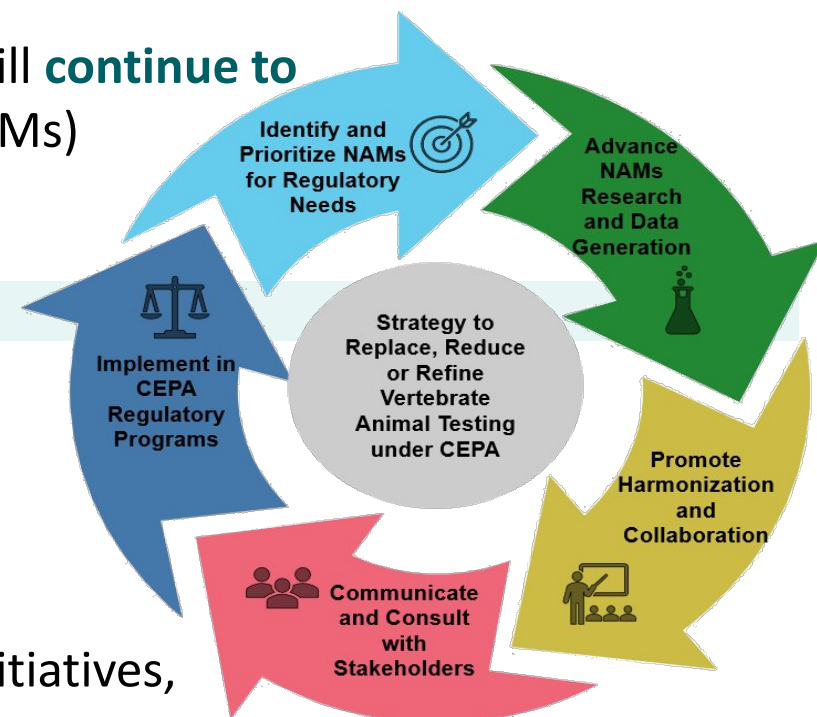
New provisions across CEPA aim to **replace, reduce or refine the use of vertebrate animals in toxicity testing.**



- The five elements in the Strategy are associated with **key outcome(s)** and will **continue to be advanced** to support the implementation of new approach methods (NAMs) whenever possible (i.e., to the extent practicable and scientifically justified).

Status and Next Steps

- Published the **Strategy** alongside the Plan of Priorities in July 2025.
- **Implementation** of Strategy now underway, including:
 - Moving forward NAMs research across key focus areas.
 - Ongoing participation in domestic and international multistakeholder initiatives, as well as ongoing engagement with stakeholders and partners.
 - Determining and refining program-specific metrics aiming to track advancements in the implementation of NAMs to replace, reduce or refine vertebrate animal testing; and
 - Exploring how to communicate progress related to the implementation of the strategy.



The Plan of Priorities: Strategy to Reduce Reliance on Vertebrate Animal Testing (Continued)



Implementation effort includes a new tool to improve how substances are prioritized for assessment under CEPA

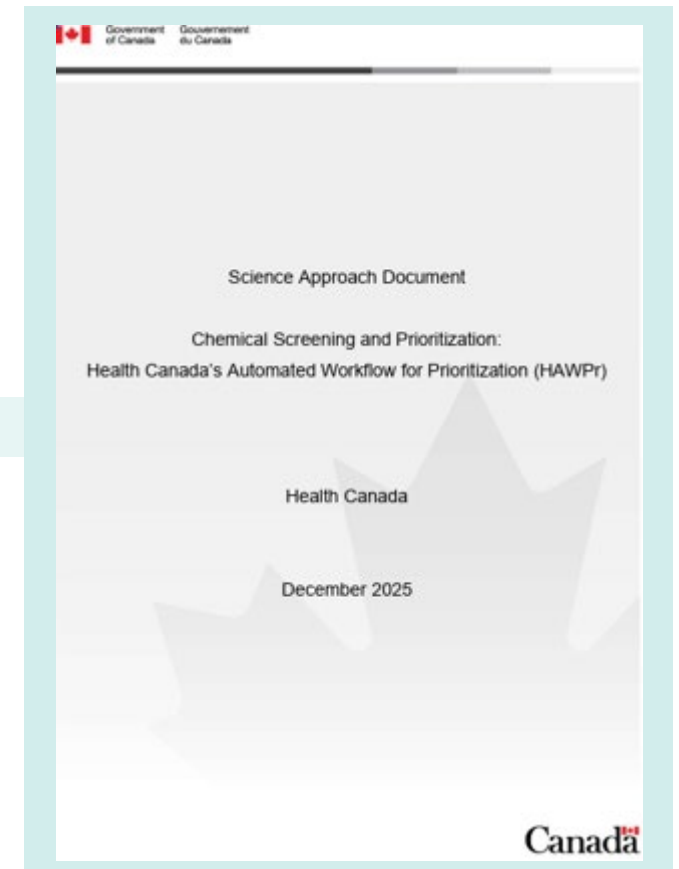


Health Canada's automated workflow for prioritization (HAWPr)

- **HAWPr is a new computational tool** integrating inputs from across various information sources and conducting analytics on large data sets.
- Developed by HC to **more efficiently** collect, organize and process chemical data to further expand on the methods used for identification of risk assessment priorities.

Status and Next Steps

- Science Approach document published **December 2025**, alongside the summary of public comments received.
- Results from HAWPr are available and were taken into consideration in the identification of risk assessments priorities.
- Technical workshop on key elements of HAWPr (should there be an interest).



The Watch List



The **Watch List** is a tool for sharing information on chemicals of potential concern



- The Watch List consolidates information and does not impose regulatory requirements or restrictions.
- The Watch List includes substances that have been assessed as not currently meeting the criteria for toxic substances under S.64 of CEPA and may be of potential concern if exposure or hazard characteristics were to change in the future.
- Allows stakeholders, partners and consumers to use the Watch List to inform decisions on substances known to be of potential concern.
- The proposed Watch List Approach includes a description of the considerations and processes used to administer the Watch List.

Status and Next Steps

- Comments from fall 2024 public consultation on the [proposed Watch List Approach](#) were considered and incorporated as appropriate.
- Watch List Approach publication targeted for early 2026, with the initial Watch List being published soon after.

Upcoming Key Initiative: Consultation document to develop criteria for adding substances to Part 1 of Schedule 1 of CEPA



A stronger regime for controlling toxic substances



- Strengthened regime for assessing and controlling certain toxic substances that are persistent and bioaccumulative, or carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic to reproduction (CMR), or that are classified as posing the highest risk (SHR).
- Classifies toxic substances based on properties or characteristics.
- Toxic substances that meet these criteria must be added to Part 1 of Schedule 1 under CEPA where priority is given to prohibition.
- Development of regulations prescribing specific criteria will follow a public comment period.

Status and Next Steps

- Consultation document for Regulations Respecting Carcinogenicity, Mutagenicity and Reproductive Toxicity (CMR) of a Substance under CEPA targeted for publication in 2026 followed by a 60-day public comment period.
- **Proposed regulations targeted for publication in 2026-27.**

Update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



The Government of Canada has **taken action on certain harmful PFAS under CMP for over a decade.**



Status

- In March 2025, the Government published three key documents on the class of PFAS
 -  • [The State of PFAS Report](#), which concluded that the class of PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers as defined in the report, is toxic to the environment and human health under CEPA.
 -  • [Proposed Order](#) adding the class of PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers, to Part 2 of Schedule 1 to CEPA (the 60-day public comment period ended in May 2025).
 -  • [Risk Management Approach for PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers](#), which outlines the proposed risk management actions for the class of PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers, through a phased approach (the 60-day public comment period ended in May 2025).
- In December 2025, the final [Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2025](#) were published, further restricting certain PFAS that are already on Schedule 1.

Update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) (*Continued*)

Status and Next Steps

- In December 2025, a **PFAS Roundtable was launched** to provide a collaborative forum across interested parties and stakeholders to advance PFAS risk management through shared knowledge, guidance, and coordination.
- Risk management on the class of PFAS would be put in place if the Order adding the class of PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers, to Part 2 of Schedule 1 to CEPA is finalized:
 - **Phase 1:** a proposed regulation on firefighting foams is expected to be published for public comment (Spring 2027)
 - In September 2025, the Government published a Consultation document on Phase 1 of the Risk Management of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), Excluding Fluoropolymers: Prohibition of the Use of PFAS, not Currently Regulated, in Firefighting Foams (the 60-day public comment period ended in November 2025).
 - **Phase 2:** restrict PFAS use in consumer applications
 - **Phase 3:** restrict PFAS use requiring further considerations
- Fluoropolymers planned for consideration in a separate assessment and are included among the substances prioritized for assessment under the Plan of Priorities.



There are several opportunities for consultation at each phase of proposed risk management. To receive updates on risk management activities for PFAS under the CMP, [subscribe to the Risk management of the class of PFAS service](#).



Update on Plastics Initiatives

Actions across the plastics lifecycle are being taken under a comprehensive plan on plastic waste and pollution, including:

- [Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations](#), published in 2022.
- Advancing science by supporting and conducting research, coordinating activities, sharing information e.g.,:
 - [Prioritization of Chemicals in Plastics Science Approach Document](#) (SciAD), published in late 2025.
 - [Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution](#), published in 2020.
 - Launching the [Federal Plastics Registry](#).

Status and Next Steps

- Proposing to amend Regulations to allow the export of single-use plastics, while ensuring that the environment remains protected.
 - [Proposed Amendments are subject to a 70-day public comment period](#), closing **February 28, 2026**.
- Continued investments into research on potential impacts of microplastics on human health. \$4.6M over four years dedicated to microplastics research, which is still ongoing, plus additional project funding via CMP.

Advancing Red Tape Reduction: Modernizing New Substances Notifications Regulations

»»» The CMP is modernizing New Substances Notification Regulations to **reduce burden** while maintaining **strong protections for health and the environment.** <<<

- In Canada, before chemicals, polymers and genetically modified or other living organisms, can enter the marketplace, industry must follow regulatory requirements to allow HC and ECCC assess and ensure the safety of the substances.
- HC and ECCC are modernizing regulations for new substances, by amending the New Substances Notification Regulations (Chemicals and Polymers) [NSNR (Chem & Poly)] and New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms) [NSNR (O)].
 - The amendments will help **reduce barriers to entry into the Canadian market by addressing inefficiencies, increasing flexibility and better capturing advances in science and technology.**

Next Steps

- Publication of the proposed amendments to the regulations are anticipated in 2026/27 for public consultation.

Amendments to the New Substances Notification Regulations (Chemicals and Polymers)

»»» The New Substances Notification Regulations (Chemicals and Polymers) (NSNR) is being amended to align with advancements in science and <<< to make it easier to introduce substances into the Canadian market.

Specific, proposed amendments are intended to reduce red tape by introducing:

- **Regulatory flexibility for companies to submit alternative scientific data** that replaces animal testing data – an approach supported by industry and the public and sought to be explicitly reflected in the Regulations.
- **More time for HC and ECCC to assess new types of data from non-animal studies** for lowest volume substances (Schedule 4). Increasing from 5 to 30 days to align with other Schedules.
 - Allows assessment of new methods, or multiple sources of data and to risk manage substance of concern.
 - Companies can request an expedited review.
- Removing requirement on paper-based processes.

Additional time enables better evaluation of complex data and stronger risk assessments.

Amendments to the New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms)

»» The New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms) is being amended to improve transparency, align with advancements in science and reduce regulatory inefficiencies. <<<

Amendments to the regulations (subject to ministerial approval) is expected to:

- Improve the mandatory consultation process by extending some assessment timelines to facilitate a public comment period and require notifiers to provide a summary of information for meaningful public engagement.
- Reduce regulatory burden by exempting certain cell and gene therapies so that people in Canada can get quicker access to safe modern products such as innovative medicines, while ensuring protection of the environment and human health.
- Improve regulatory efficiency by adding new Schedules for higher organisms and minimizing overlap with other Acts or Regulations such as the Human Pathogens and Toxins Regulations.
- Remove requirements on paper-based processes.

CEPA Registry and Substance Search Modernization Project

- [Substances Search](#) includes selected lists of substance names and identifiers associated with CEPA and its regulatory instruments.
- Recent CMP CEPA Section 71 notice substances added in December 2025.
- The Modernization Project is a new system for storing, managing and centralizing access to CEPA Registry and substance data.
- Improving access to information and reducing regulatory burden:
 - ✓ Reduced duplication and confusion across multiple websites
 - ✓ Faster navigation to obligations and reporting requirements
 - ✓ Greater confidence in compliance due to timely access to data & information
- Scalable solution with agile and iterative development based on stakeholder and partner feedback and priorities.

Status and Next Steps

- Demo at today's webinar of the new system under development
- To submit questions or feedback, contact ECCC's Regulatory Services Modernization Team : MSR-RSM@ec.gc.ca

Upcoming Milestones

