Substance Management Plan a Positive Step Forward

Ottawa – The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) today said it is pleased the federal government has announced a concerted plan for a comprehensive approach to substance management in Canada.

“We think this is a very impressive plan that builds upon the rigorous, science-based regulatory regime currently in place. We believe this confirms the government’s intention to use the regulations set out in the current Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) for all substances, including those contained in products regulated under Canada’s Food and Drugs Act,” said Shannon Coombs, President of CCSPA.

“We see this plan as a continuation of Canada’s world-leading initiatives in this area and it will ensure the protection of Canadians’ health and safety, and their environment. We will be working proactively with the government as the plan is implemented,” she said.

For the substances regulated under Canada’s Food and Drugs Act, Ms. Coombs said that CCSPA hopes the government will adopt industry’s recommendation for a categorization of the 9,000 in-commerce substances in consumer products that have been used safely and effectively by Canadians for almost 20 years. This approach would be the same as the just-completed categorization of Canada’s Domestic Substances List.

“We want the government to create a provision under CEPA to recognize these substances as ‘existing’ substances and have them reviewed by the government as such. As the Prime Minister said in his announcement today, we are ahead of other countries with the completion of the categorization. Adopting industry’s proactive solution for the 9,000 substances would be another world-leading initiative under CEPA.”

Ms. Coombs said, "Canadians can feel confident that regulated ingredients and products are safe when used according to the products’ directions.” She added that various Canadian laws and regulations regulate all substances, products and their labelling.

“As we move forward and work with the government on its plan announced today, we are confident Canada will continue to use the best science available and that all stakeholders will continue to collaborate to further protect Canadians and our environment,” Coombs said.

Further information can be found at the following websites: www.healthycleaning101.org and www.ingredientawareness.ca.

Contact: Shannon Coombs, President, 613-232-6616

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CCSPA is a national trade association representing Canada’s consumer, industrial and institutional specialty products industry. Its mission is to enhance the ability of its 40 member companies to conduct business fairly, ethically and effectively by fostering industry cooperation, providing a national voice for communications and developing effective partnerships with governments, other stakeholders and the public.