



October 20, 2017

Dear Editor,

Over the past few years, members of the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA) have been working to address concerns at Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Through these efforts, we have all developed a deeper understanding of the community. We have also learned some members of this community have endured tragic personal family circumstances. We share the following information with respect and sensitivity for the significant losses felt within the Aamjiwnaang community.

There is some additional information we believe the public will find valuable, that was not included in the final investigative project on Sarnia's environmental performance by reporters from Global News, the Toronto Star, the National Observer and several Canadian universities.

Below are some points which were presented to the reporters by SLEA during my interview:

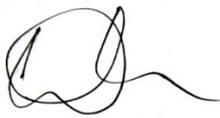
- SLEA and its industry members have committed funding for external health research and we continue to fully support additional study.
- SLEA has been monitoring air quality in the Sarnia area for more than 65 years.
- We operate an extensive network of ambient air quality monitoring stations through a third-party environmental specialist. We welcome questions from the public and share information with the community.
- All SLEA members are committed to working toward better transparency of air monitoring data and continue to work with all local stakeholders to provide real-time air monitoring data.
- Scientific monitoring data from SLEA shows a trend of consistent improvement over the past 10 years (2006 to 2016), including benzene emissions which have decreased by 18 per cent. Sarnia's benzene levels are not significantly different than other industrialized Canadian centres (Environment Canada, National Air Pollution Surveillance).
- Ontario has set a benzene limit that is 20 times lower than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's benzene threshold. SLEA members are committed to continuing their ongoing efforts to reduce emissions.

- Industry in Sarnia is creating new systems for fence-line monitoring, leak detection and repair, waste water monitoring, tank monitoring and inspection, and product loading limits.

The stories about Sarnia last weekend also address emergency response communications with the public. It is important to note that community members in the region have several information sources from which they can access real time updates on potential issues. These tools include the “My Community Notification Network” system, telephone lines and information bulletins in local media.

In summary, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the very complex, important and sensitive discussion regarding industrial air emissions in Sarnia. Industries in Sarnia take environmental performance seriously. Together, we have demonstrated emissions reductions and we remain committed to continually improving our environmental performance, and to working with Aamjiwnaang First Nation and local residents to build a healthier, more vibrant community for all.

Sincerely,



Dean Edwardson
General Manager Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association
General Manager Community Awareness Emergency Response

CC:
Marilyn Gladu, MP, Sarnia-Lambton
Bob Bailey, MPP, Sarnia-Lambton
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
Canadian Fuels Association
County of Lambton
City of Sarnia
Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership
SLEA Members

The Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association or SLEA is a non-profit co-operative comprised of 18 industrial manufacturers in the Sarnia-Lambton area of Southwestern Ontario. SLEA monitors ambient environmental conditions to assess the impact of its members on the local environment (air, water and soil). Established in 1952, the SLEA has been monitoring local environmental conditions for over 65 years. Part of the SLEA mandate is to share this information with government agencies and the Sarnia-Lambton community.