

An Overview of the Chemicals Management Plan and Challenge

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Overview

- Background and Context
 - Categorization
 - A priority setting exercise
- The Chemicals Management Plan (CMP)
 - The immediate focus
 - The Challenge
 - Links to other priorities under the CMP

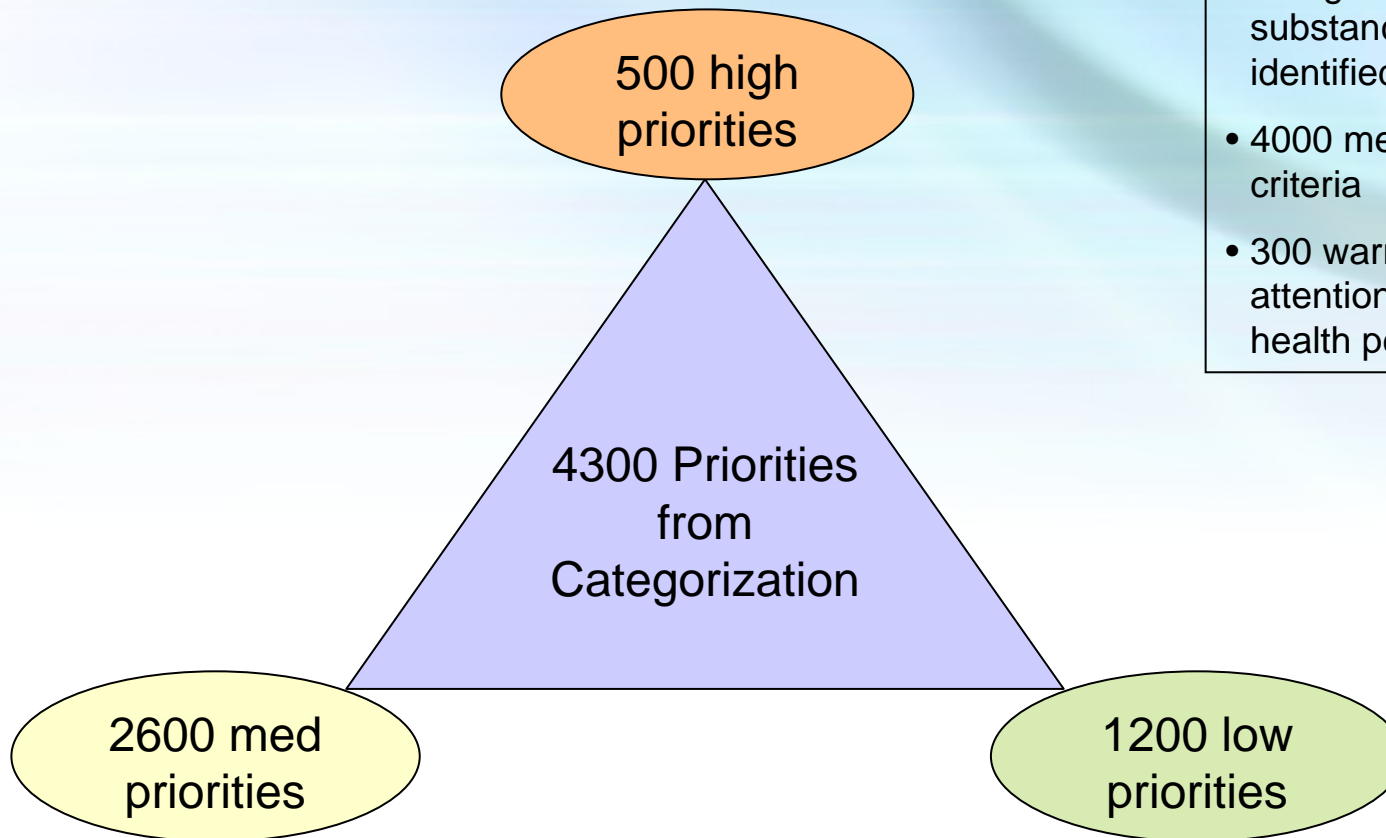


Completion of categorization presented an opportunity

- Government of Canada scientists, in co-operation with industry and health and environmental groups, completed **categorization** of the Domestic Substances List (DSL) by the September 2006 deadline.
- As a result, Canada has an **information base** on which existing substances can be compared and prioritized. The Government is using this information to:
 - Inform completion of obligatory risk assessments
 - Launch new programs under the Chemicals Management Plan
 - (e.g. Challenge)
 - Transform how it protects Canadians and their environment from risks associated with chemicals



Results of Prioritization



Through categorization, 4300 substances on the DSL were identified for further action

- 4000 met the categorization criteria
- 300 warranted further attention from a human health perspective



Key Objectives of the Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP)

- **Significantly strengthen the existing substances regime:** Categorization established a new information baseline that sets clear priorities for action that are science based
- **Integrate government activities:** The Chemicals Management Plan will strengthen CEPA's coordination with other federal statutes, including: *Hazardous Products Act, Food & Drugs Act, and Pest Control Products Act*
- **Establish government accountability:** The Plan draws on:
 - Enhanced monitoring and surveillance activities to identify priorities and measure effectiveness of regulatory actions
 - Increased research activities to ensure that action is informed by best available science
 - Enhanced risk communications to Canadians
 - Public web portal to ensure consistent access to information
 - A cyclical update of the Domestic Substances List that will require industry to report on use and volume of substances on the Canadian market
- **Strengthen industry's role by proactively identifying and safely managing risks associated with chemicals they produce and use**



Chemicals Management Plan: Program Elements

- Stakeholder feedback during design indicated a clear preference for a phased approach driven by priorities
- The initial focus of the Chemicals Management Plan is addressed through (**high priorities**):
 - **Challenge** Initiative for high concern substances in commerce
 - **Significant new activity controls (SNACs)** for high concern substances no longer in commerce
 - **Petroleum sector** as a priority with unique risk assessment and management circumstances
 - **Prohibitions** on a set of substances and creation of the virtual elimination list to demonstrate commitment and action by government
- Additional work at present focuses on:
 - **Rapid screening** of lower risk chemical substances for market certainty
 - Foundational work (international engagement, research and science, monitoring, inventory update) to inform and **set priorities for next phase of priority substances**
- In addition to work being carried out under the purview of Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), important work is also being conducted under other legislation
 - Rapid re-evaluation of older pesticides; pesticide incident reporting system (Pest Control Products Act)
 - Assessments of substances regulated under the Food and Drugs Act, enhanced management of contaminants in food



What is the Challenge?

- It is a plan for the assessment and management of substances believed to be in-commerce and identified as high priorities for action as a result of Categorization
- The Challenge focuses on those substances that have been identified as ecological and human health priorities
 - Ecological:
 - Substances that were categorized as Persistent (P) and Bioaccumulative (B) and inherently toxic to non-human organisms (iT):
 - Human Health:
 - Substances that were categorized as high hazard and have a high or intermediate potential for exposure
- The Notice was published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I December 2006 outlining the Government of Canada's intended action for the Challenge



Why Canada is using a Challenge initiative to deal with the 200 priorities for action?

- The Chemicals Management Plan relies on strong stewardship from Canadian industry.
- The Government of Canada will use existing legal tools to challenge industry to provide new information about how it is managing 200 chemical substances that are potentially harmful to human health or the environment.
- Challenge to stakeholders to provide information that:
 - Improves, where possible, information for risk assessment
 - Identifies industrial best practices in order to set benchmarks for risk management and product stewardship; and
 - Collects environmental release, exposure, substance and/or product use information.
- **The absence of information will not preclude government from taking action that safeguards human health and the environment.**

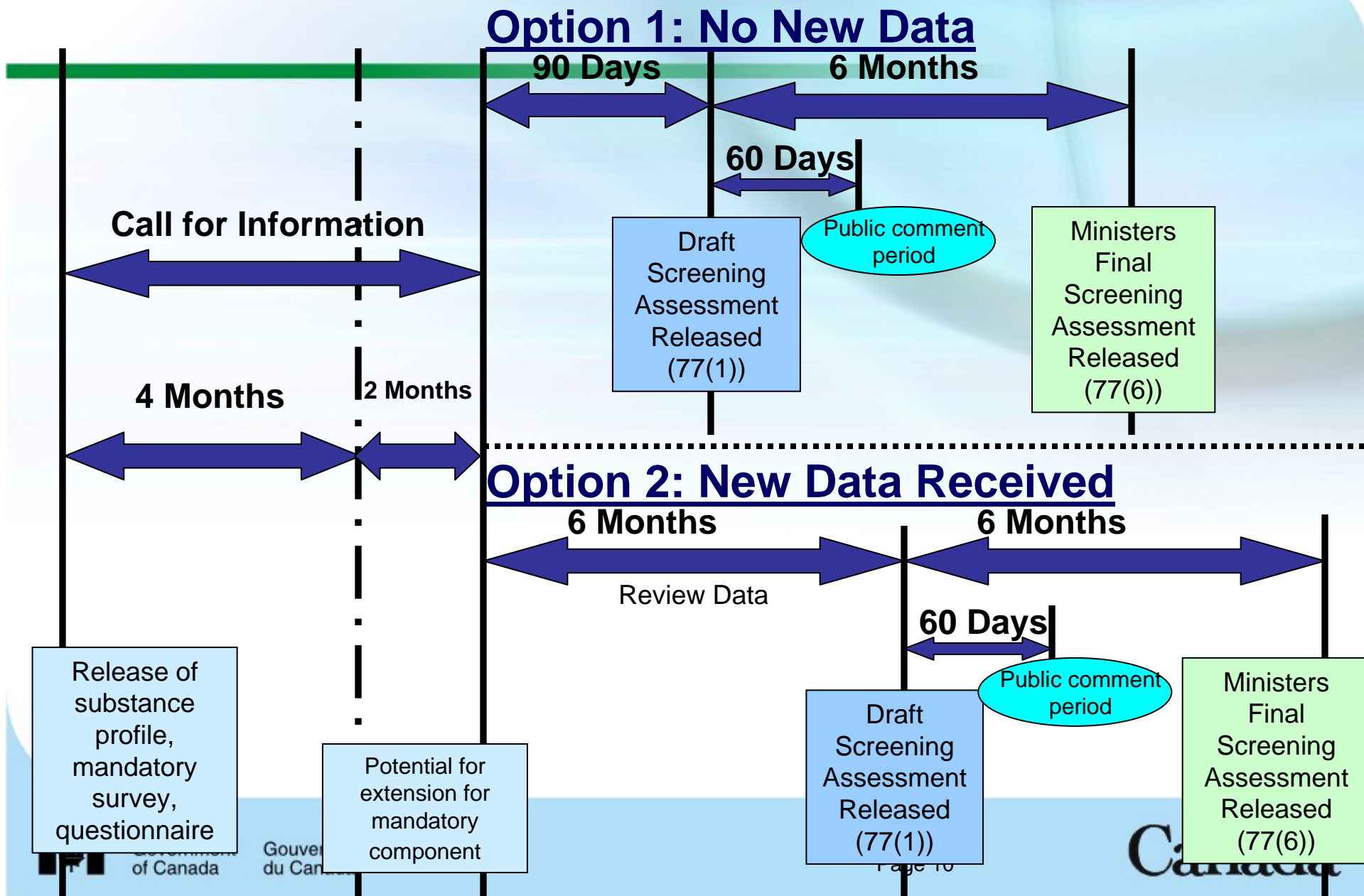


Products & Process for the Challenge

- There are three products to the Challenge: substances profiles, mandatory surveys, and a questionnaire.
- The Government will publish, in 12 batches of 15-30 substances every three months, **profiles of chemical substances** and complementary **mandatory surveys**. All Challenge substances will be released within 3 years.
- Industry and other stakeholders will be asked to provide, by the specified deadline, information they may have in their possession pertaining to the questions outlined in the **survey**.
- Relevant parties will be challenged to submit the specific information detailed in the **challenge questionnaire**, and comment on **substance profiles**, within 6 months.
- Completed mandatory surveys and questionnaires will be reviewed by Government of Canada scientists to determine what further actions may be necessary to ensure that the health of Canadians and their environment are protected.
- Government scientists will have a **maximum of 6 months** to publish a screening level risk assessment.



Timelines for the Challenge



Key Results

The Challenge: Addresses approximately 200 substances of high concern

- 5 batches launched with section 71 surveys (58 EC and 31 HC substances)
- 1st batch: publication of draft SARs and RM scope for public comment in January 2008 (15 substances).

Petroleum stream: approach established for 164 substances of high concern with section 71 survey to be published in Spring 2008.

Significant new activity controls (SNAcs):

- Notices issued for ~150 high concern substances no longer in commerce, Industry must provide data (under the New Substances Program) for Government review before any of the substances can be re-introduced into Canada.

Rapid screening:

- Worst-case scenario models are used to confirm the likelihood that lower risk chemical substances may not cause ecological harm. Of the 1066 substances subject to this approach, 754 were proposed “not toxic” in June 2007.

Stakeholders’ Reaction:

- High interest in the Challenge from Canadian stakeholders, and from other governments;
- Over 3700 inquiries (via email and phone) have been received;
- Via their Canadian operations, many international chemical firms are providing information through the mandatory surveys.



The CMP continuum: key to an efficient science-based regulatory regime for chemicals

Support for Research:

- The Government will **enhance regulatory science** by leading research and partnering with external research bodies in order to inform risk assessments and regulatory interventions
 - Thus ensuring that action on the part of governments, Canadians, and industry are informed by the best available science

Integrated Monitoring:

- The Government will build on the new baseline of information from categorization by implementing a **national health and environment monitoring and surveillance program** that:
 - Identifies emerging priorities and tracks Canadians' exposure to toxic substances; and,
 - Measures the effectiveness of our regulatory actions so that we know what works best

Inventory Update

- The Government will **develop and implement a cyclical inventory update** provision for CEPA's Domestic Substances List
 - This will require industry to report on the substances they use, and the volume of these substances on the Canadian market



Contact Information

Chemical Substances Web Site:

- www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca
- Hotline and mailbox for the Challenge Program:
DSL Surveys Coordinator
Existing Substances Program
Place Vincent Massey, 20th Floor
351 Saint Joseph Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3
T: 1-888-228-0530/819-956-9313
F: 1-800-410-4314/819-953-4936
Email: DSL.surveyco@ec.gc.ca
 - All calls and data submissions, including written comments, should be directed to this contact point



Program for the Assessment and Management of Chemicals Meeting Categorization Criteria

