



December 19, 2023

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, Public Health
777 Bay St, 5th floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Subject: Urgent Need for a Clean Indoor Air Act in Ontario

Dear Dr. Moore,

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) is the advocacy body and voice of the engineering profession in Ontario. Ontario currently has over 85,000 professional engineers, 250,000 engineering graduates, 6,600 engineering post-graduate students and 37,000 engineering undergraduate students. Through OSPE's non-partisan, evidence-based approach to advocacy, we are recognized as a trusted advisor to government and regularly asked to provide input on policy, planning, and budget decisions.

We are writing to request your support for the implementation of a Clean Indoor Air Act in Ontario. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, OSPE established an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Advisory Group, comprised of leading experts in air quality and ventilation, including engineers and medical professionals. We have published a [series of guidance documents](#) and continue to advocate provincially and federally for regulations to safeguard the health of Canadians. At OSPE, we view clean air as a fundamental right and a necessary economic investment to avoid any future situations like we saw during the pandemic.

Though we diligently design systems to ensure the provision of clean water, regularly testing and maintaining them to guarantee their functionality, we lack a similar approach for IAQ. The absence of continuous testing and regulation poses a significant threat to public health that necessitates immediate attention and intervention.

The recent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating wildfire seasons underscore the pivotal role that buildings play in either increasing the risk of disease and illness or providing sanctuaries for well-being. Good IAQ not only mitigates the spread of infectious diseases but also helps reduce the incidence of chronic conditions like asthma, certain cancers, and complications of cardiovascular disease.

Moreover, extreme weather events associated with the climate crisis is likely to lead to more time spent indoors. The wildfires across Canada were one example of how critical it is to design buildings that prioritize the health and safety of their occupants, including IAQ.

To this end, OSPE draws your attention to the [Model Clean Indoor Air Act](#) recently released by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. This comprehensive model act outlines a method to ensure clean air for the public, encompassing the following elements:

- Creation of a committee to advise on implementation;
- development of an air testing plan for public spaces;
- transparency and disclosure about indoor air quality in buildings and;
- providing guidance, testing requirements, incentives, and remedies to ensure the public is provided with clean air.

Clean air is not only a fundamental right but also a necessary economic investment. It can alleviate the disease burden, pandemic-proof our future, reduce children's school absenteeism, and stand as one of the most significant public health interventions of our lifetime.

Therefore, OSPE urges you to support and advocate for the passage of a Clean Indoor Air Act in Ontario. By doing so, we take a proactive step towards safeguarding public health, ensuring a resilient future, and building a healthier and safer environment for all residents of our province.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. OSPE trusts that, with your leadership, we can enact meaningful change and enhance the well-being of our community. For further information or questions, please contact Paola Cetares, Public Affairs Manager (pcetares@ospe.on.ca) or Stefanie Black, Government Relations Coordinator (sblack@ospe.on.ca).

Sincerely,



Stephanie Holko, P.Eng., MBA
Chair and President
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers



Sandro Perruzza
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

CC Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health

Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister