

Environmental Bill of Rights

Background Information

The *Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment* is a project initiated by the David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot initiative, with a goal of enshrining environmental rights into municipal, provincial and federal law.

Around the world, more than 110 nations recognize the right to live in a healthy environment. But not Canada. As David Suzuki says, "What's more important than the right to breathe fresh air, drink clear water and eat healthy food."

Across the country, municipal governments are part of a growing movement inspired by the Blue Dot tour to request that the right to a healthy environment be enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This movement affirms a commitment to social, environmental and economic sustainability and an inherent right for all Canadians to breathe clean air, drink clean water, consume safe food, have access to nature, know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment and participate in the decisions that affect us and the environment.

To date, over 69,000 Canadians have joined their local movement and 30 municipal governments have passed declarations recognizing the right to fresh air, clean water and healthy food.

The first step is to have Canadians call upon their local communities to pass municipal declarations respecting people's right to live in a healthy environment. Community by community, this movement will inspire decision makers across higher levels of government to take notice and pass environmental bills of rights. When seven of the 10 provinces representing more than 50 percent of Canada's population have recognized this right, the final goal is to amend the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This will enshrine and ensure that we all benefit from a healthy environment, world-class standards and a say in the decisions that affect our health.

For more information please visit bluedot.ca