



"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation."

Volume 18 Issue 5

Published monthly by the Union of Ontario Indians - Anishinabek Nation

Single Copy: \$2.00

June 2006

## Chemicals poisoning Canadians

**By Ron Plain**  
AAMIJWNAANG FN - A recent study indicates that - no matter who you are or where you live in Canada - you are likely being exposed to dangerous chemicals.

Environmental Defence has released the results of a 2005 study called Toxic Nation. The study conducted bio-monitoring, (blood and urine samples) of 11 Canadians with varying locations and lifestyles. The volunteers included world-renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman, Cree Nation of



Ron Plain

Whapmagostui Chief David Masty, and Merrel-Ann Phare, Executive Director of The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER).

The samples were then tested for a defined set of chemical and biological materials, which were then categorized according to four groups of health effects: carcinogens, hormone

The Observer  
June 1 2006

## 'Children poisoned,' group says

### NEW STUDY ON TOXIC CHEMICALS RELEASED

By CATHY DOBSON  
The Observer

New study results released in Ottawa this morning reflect the federal government's poor track record of protecting Canadians

were born, they were detected in all the children and all the parents.

However, the children had lower concentrations of PCBs, which shows that government action to eliminate toxic chemicals can be effective, Smith said.

He criticized the government for not doing biomonitoring of its own so Canadians are more aware of what their bodies are absorbing.

"All Canadians should take

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## Children 'poisoned'

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"I'm not a scientist but I know these things shouldn't be there," said Plain Sr., who believes chemicals in his body could be linked to his osteoarthritis. "I'm going to talk to my doctor about my results."

The three generations of the Plain family were tested in March at a lab on Exmouth Street, at a cost to Environmental Defence of about \$2,000 per person.

It's something the government should provide to everyone, Plain Sr. said.

"If people found out what was in them, they'd be angry like me and make sure our government did something about it.

"This study won't change anything unless people get excited about it."

Smith called the study the first of its kind because it involved youth and showed their "serious vulnerability" to

flame retardants used to slow the spread of fire in upholstery, mattresses, carpets and even computer keyboards.

Smith said Canadians should be outraged that the federal government isn't doing more to protect them from toxic chemicals.

"It's a myth that pollution levels are getting better. I think we need to get angry about a federal government that has let it get this bad," he said.