

# A Mercury Thermometer Exchange

Cambridge Memorial Hospital

and the

Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care

Partnering for Health, Safety and Environment



**Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care**  
Working to reduce health care's environmental impact

**Coalition Canadienne pour un système de santé vert**  
Nous travaillons à réduire l'impact des soins de santé sur l'environnement

June 2002

# What is a mercury Thermometer Exchange?

- A half-day event at the hospital at which staff and visitors turn in mercury fever thermometers from home and, in return, receive a complimentary non-mercury thermometer or voucher for an alternative
- These events educate staff and patients about the environmental and public health impacts of mercury, help reduce accidental thermometer breakage or improper disposal, and empower people to improve the environment



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# Why a Mercury Thermometer Exchange?

- Mercury is a health hazard and environmental contaminant
- Safer alternative products are available and cost-effective
- Health and Safety protection

Cont'd...



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# Why a Mercury Thermometer Exchange?

- Regulatory Compliance
- An Education Opportunity
- Easy to coordinate – BIG payoffs



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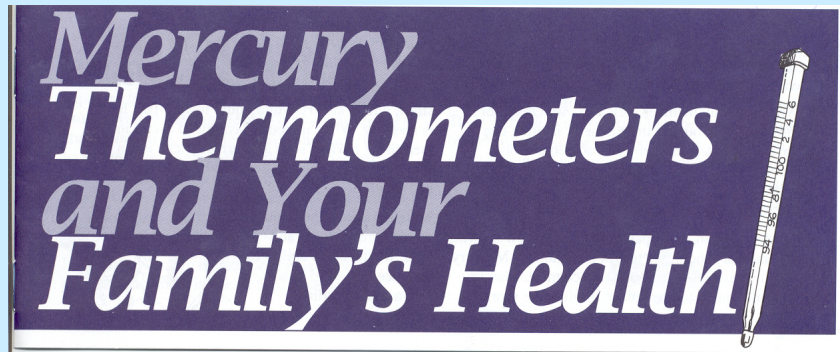
# The Big Day

- Toronto and Cambridge-KW: Hospital for Sick Children, University Health Network, Sunnybrook and Women's, Cambridge Memorial, St. Mary's and Grand River Hospitals
- lunch hour / shift change
- table with information and collection containers
- Cdn Coalition staff and hospital volunteer
- pre-promotion through posters, cafeteria signs and internal newsletters
- promotion through local and national media
- Coalition provides for safe collection and disposal



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- (hospital's) commitment to health, safety and environment
- Facilitated by Cdn Coalition for Green Health Care
- Promotes sustainability
- Build links with community
- Simple. Fun. Innovative.



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# Exchange Thermometers...Build Relationships

The Exchange positions our  
hospital as:



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# The Exchange positions our hospital as:

- a leader: progressive, active and dynamic
- a partner in community-oriented health
- interested in outreach, health promotion and *prevention* (not simply those we treat)



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# The Exchange positions our hospital as:

- concerned about the impact of mercury: both today and tomorrow
- responsible and caring
- committed to employee health and well-being
- committed to environmentally responsible practices and ISO requirements



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