

fall 2003

QUARTERLY

# update

Sudbury Soils Study

metals • health • environment



1.866.315.0228

[www.sudburysoilsstudy.com](http://www.sudburysoilsstudy.com)

Vol. 1, No. 2



## Thank you for your Input!

The SARA Group would like to thank Greater Sudbury area residents who participated in the “Have Your Say” workshops in May, and the Open House in June. These events were well attended and we certainly appreciate the valuable input that we received from the community.

Feedback from the community has helped us:

- Better define what we call Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) – the Study subjects important to you (e.g., plants, animals, activities). A final list will be made public this fall;
- Understand that we need to provide a clear overview of the Study process, and the role of the Technical Committee ;
- Increase participation in the Vegetable Garden Survey – we now have more than 60 homeowners involved; and,

- Increase our awareness of local concerns related to metals in the environment.

We would also like to thank all members of the public who have sent us an email or called us with a question, concern or comment. Your input is very valuable to us, and we are listening to you to help make this study better. Please continue to ask questions, we will do what we can to help. All comments received will be placed on our website.

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If you have any questions or comments about the study, please contact us by email at [questions@sudburysoilsstudy.com](mailto:questions@sudburysoilsstudy.com), or call us, toll-free, at 1-866-315-0228. Our telephone number is voice-mail only, but we do promise to get back to you within 24 hours. ■

### Sudbury Soils Study OPEN HOUSE

November 25, 2003

On Tuesday,  
November 25, 2003,  
the public is invited  
to our third  
Open House at  
Science North, from  
3:00 to 9:00 pm.

The Open House will be an opportunity for you to meet members of the study team and Technical Committee, and for us to provide you with updates on work completed to date. It will also be an opportunity to learn how public input has been included in designing the study, and to provide us with your thoughts on the project so far.

# The Study Process

The Sudbury Soils Study is spearheaded by a community partnership. The study is managed by a Technical Committee made up of 15 representatives from the member groups:

- Ontario Ministry of the Environment;
- INCO Limited;
- Falconbridge Limited;
- City of Greater Sudbury;
- Sudbury & District Health Unit; and
- Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

*The vision of the Technical Committee is as follows:*

*“A transparent process that provides a thorough, scientifically-sound assessment of the environmental and health risks to the Sudbury community, and effectively communicates the results so that future decisions are informed and valued.”*

The Technical Committee makes decisions by consensus. This means that no one member group can unduly influence a decision or affect the study outcome. The fair, open and transparent process

that has been adopted by this Committee will ensure the delivery of accurate scientific results for all citizens of Greater Sudbury. In addition to the Technical Committee, which oversees the overall study, there are a number of other participants (refer to the chart below).

## Study Outcome and Actions

Study reports and results will be released throughout the next two years. The study team will host additional workshops and open houses and produce newsletters and newspaper announcements to communi-

## Chemicals of Concern (CoCs)

If you have been following the study, you know that we have focused on four chemicals of concern (CoCs): arsenic, copper, cobalt, and nickel. We made the commitment at the beginning of this study to add other CoCs if this is indicated by our analysis. We have added lead to the list of chemicals for further study, because our work has shown that it meets the criteria for CoCs:

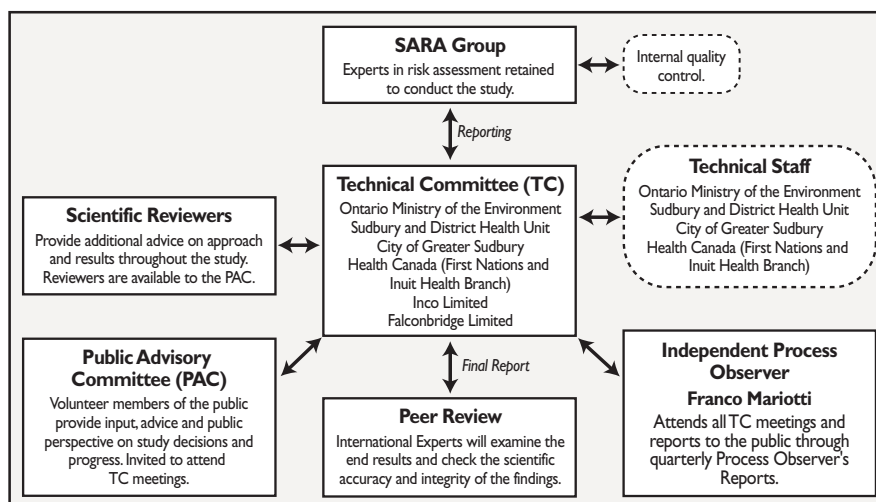
1. Levels of chemical in local soils exceeds Ministry of the Environment (MOE) trigger levels for further study;
2. The chemical is found throughout the study area, or throughout one of our communities of interest (Sudbury core, Copper Cliff, Coniston, Falconbridge, Whitefish Lake First Nation and Wahnapiatae First Nation);
3. The chemical can be tied back to smelting activities.

To date, there are five chemicals of concern - arsenic, copper, cobalt, nickel, and lead. As our analysis continues, additional CoCs will be included if they meet the criteria. ■

cate findings to the public. Information will be made available at local libraries and posted on our website.

There is no expected immediate risk to human health based on the information available to date. However, if there are long-term risks the study will identify them, all information about these risks will be made public, and the Technical Committee will work with the community to develop ways to address them. If remediation is required, Inco and Falconbridge have committed to taking any action necessary. ■

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## The SARA Group

The **Sudbury Soils Study** is a community-wide initiative that includes an assessment of risks to human health and the environment from metals in local soils. This study is not the end of the process, though. Actions will be determined by study results, and residents of Greater Sudbury will be kept up to date on future developments.

Many of you have asked us who we are, and what our role is in the Sudbury Soils Study. We are the **Sudbury Area Risk Assessment (SARA) Group**, a group of consulting firms who are experts in areas related to the study:

### C.Wren & Associates Inc.

- formerly ESG International Inc.
- project management, public consultation, ecological risk assessment

### Cantox Environmental Inc.

- project management, human health risk assessment, ecological risk assessment

### Rowan Williams Davies and Irwin (RWDI) Inc.

- air monitoring and modelling

### Hellingman Communications

- public consultation, risk communications, media relations

### McLeod-Wood Associates

- First Nations consultation

### Goss Gilroy Inc.

- medical and human health consultants
- Dr. Lesbia Smith (our medical consultant, who is working with local physicians)

### SGS Lakefield Research/University of Guelph

- analysis of soil and vegetation samples

**We report directly to the Technical Committee and provide regular updates to the Public Advisory Committee.**

# Study Updates

*You may have seen members of the SARA Group around town this summer, as we had researchers out in the field (and in many backyards!) sampling for our vegetable garden, air monitoring, and ecological risk studies.*

## Vegetable Garden Survey

Thanks to the participation of so many interested Sudburians, we have had a very busy summer collecting a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and wild berries from backyard gardens,



commercial operations and wild sites in the Greater Sudbury area. These will be analyzed for metal concentrations and so will the soils in which those plants were grown.

This Sudbury-specific information will then be used in risk models as part of the human health risk assessment (HHRA). The results of the vegetable garden survey are expected to be available to participants early next year, and to the general public as part of the Sudbury Soils Study results towards the conclusion of the study. ■

## Air Monitoring Program Update

As part of the human health risk assessment, we are undertaking an air monitoring program to collect information on metal



levels in the air around the Sudbury area. This program will collect air samples every six days for an entire year, and will give us an excellent understanding of the level of these metals in the air in the Sudbury area.

We began sampling in October, and will continue until we have collected a full year of air monitoring data, with both Inco and Falconbridge facilities operating. ■

## Ecological Field Work/Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)

Our Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) was in full swing this summer. Several members of the SARA Group can answer the question **“Where were you when the lights went out (August 14)?”** by saying we were in and around Sudbury collecting data for the ERA. We were out collecting wildlife dietary items like grass and insects, which will be analyzed for metal concentrations. ■

### Technical Committee Members

#### Ontario Ministry of the Environment

- Brian McMahon, Sudbury Soils and SO<sub>2</sub> Assessment Program
- Dale Henry, Manager, Human Toxicology and Air Standards
- Mary Ellen Starodub, Senior Advisor, Risk Management

#### INCO Limited

- Glen Watson, Environmental Biologist – Project Manager
- Dr. Bruce Conard, Vice President, Environmental & Health Sciences
- Dr. R.W. (Bob) Francis, Medical Director

#### Falconbridge Limited

- Marc Butler, Environmental Coordinator
- Dr. Gord Hall, Director of Occupational Health and Hygiene
- Denis Kemp, Director, Environmental Development

#### City of Greater Sudbury

- Bill Lautenbach, Director, Planning Services
- Dr. Stephen Monet, Coordinator of Environmental Initiatives

#### Sudbury & District Health Unit

- Bruce Fortin, Director, Health Protection Division
- Ido Vettoretti, Community Environmental Health Specialist
- Ed Wierzbicki, Environmental Support Officer

#### Health Canada First Nations & Inuit Health Branch

- Ray Alatalo, Environmental Health Officer

*There are also four members of the Technical Committee who provide input into the process, but do not participate in final decision-making:*

- Ivan Filion, PAC Chair, Cambrian College
- Communications Sub-committee Chair, rotating - one member quarterly from each of the member organizations
- Dick DeStefano, Technical Committee Facilitator
- Julie Sabourin, Administrative Support

### Public Advisory Committee Members

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Darrel Alston                     | • Norris Artuso            |
| • Joe Cimino, Vice Chair            | • Ivan Filion, Chair       |
| • John Hogenbirk, Vice Chair        | • Gary Hrytsak             |
| • Aino Laamanen                     | • Dino Masiero             |
| • Rubina Nebenionquit               | • Paul St. Jean            |
| • Franco Mariotti, Process Observer | • Julie Sabourin, Recorder |



*Here's how:*

## Get Involved

# Current Study Activities

## Fall 2003 and Winter 2004

## Want to Know More?

### Photo Credit

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