

## **Bloc Québécois Response to The Lung Association**

### **1) Will you support funding The National Lung Health Framework, Canada's first national action plan on lung health?**

*The Bloc Québécois has always been concerned about issues related to health and social services, including improving the quality of life for those with lung problems. However, health and social services fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of Quebec and the provinces. Therefore, the Bloc Québécois considers them to be in the best position to implement health care systems to meet the needs of the people living there.*

*By fighting to have the fiscal imbalance between Ottawa and Quebec resolved, the Bloc Québécois is trying to obtain more financial flexibility for Quebec so that it can reinvest in health. Quebec could reinvest to improve access to health care as well as in research and prevention.*

*Nevertheless, the Bloc Québécois believes that the federal government must invest in its own areas of jurisdiction, such as Aboriginal lung health, and reinvest in such things as smoking prevention in the communities.*

### **2) Will you back strong legislation and regulations to clean up the air Canadians breathe?**

*The Canadian Medical Association recently released some worrisome numbers on the effects of poor air quality, indicating that thousands of Quebeckers and Canadians will die prematurely from exposure to air pollutants.*

*At almost the same time, Health Canada reported that the increase in heat waves combined with the worsening air quality will lead to an increased prevalence of respiratory disorders, certain cancers and more allergies.*

*In the face of these alarming statistics and the increasingly visible effects of global warming, the Bloc Québécois believes that we can no longer ignore the problem: we must urgently address greenhouse gas emissions – which contribute to smog – and air pollutants.*

*The federal government must cooperate with Quebec and the provinces so that the highest standards are applied immediately.*

*The Bloc Québécois has also strongly opposed the air quality standards announced by the federal government, which are tailored for the major oil companies. These standards are so lenient that companies working in the oil sands can substantially increase emissions of certain air pollutants that directly affect people's health and the environment. In short, these oil sand operators will be able increase their emissions of volatile organic compounds by 60% by 2015, and their emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) by 5%.*

### **3) Will you support increased funding for research on lung disease?**

*By identifying the causes of certain diseases and discovering new palliative and curative treatments, the quality of life for thousands of Canadians and Quebeckers can be significantly improved. The Bloc Québécois feels that research is one of the most promising ways to achieve this and that it must be supported.*

*The federal government's share of R&D funding has decreased over the past 30 years. In 1971, the federal government's share represented 45% of R&D spending in Canada. In 2003, that number was only 18.7%. To address this issue, the Bloc Québécois is demanding that the federal government significantly increase the money allocated to fundamental research.*