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### **District Switches to Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products**

The Cape Breton District Health Authority has taken another step toward making a positive impact on the environment.

All facilities within the District have switched to “Environmental Choice” cleaning products. The District is the first in Nova Scotia to change their cleaning products to this National designation.

“Environmental Choice” certified products are tested approximately 170 times before receiving the EcoLogo symbol of environmental excellence. The Government of Canada introduced the EcoLogo program through Environment Canada to help consumers identify products that are more environmentally friendly.

“The new product line we have chosen, Dustbane, is helping our District accomplish one of our earth-friendly goals,” says Tom MacNeil, Director of Environmental Services. “Having environmentally preferable cleaning products will help have less impact on the environment and help improve health and safety for staff.”

Using “Environmental Choice” cleaning products has eliminated chemicals like APE (Alkyl Phenol Ethoxylater), VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds), and ammonium hydroxide from District facilities. These by-products are known to cause damage to blood cells and they can also cause severe burns to the skin, eyes and respiratory tract.

“By being the first District in the province to use “Environmental Choice” cleaning products we hope to set an example for other areas,” says MacNeil. “This is a further step towards a greener and more sustainable future.”

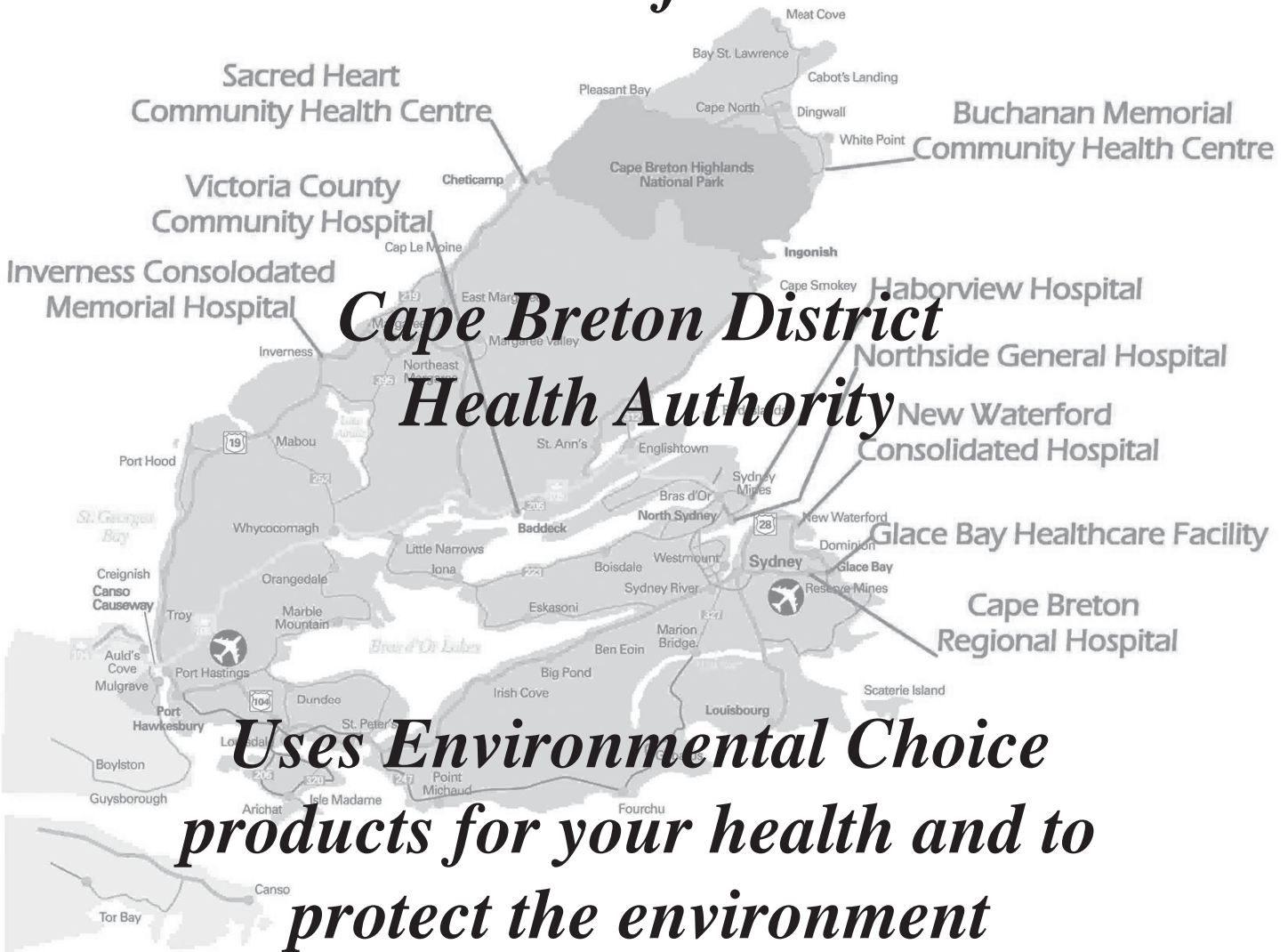
Switching to “Environmental Choice” cleaning products is one of many initiatives launched through the District’s Greening Today for a Healthy Tomorrow committee. Since the committee formed in 2007, the group has created a plan for waste separation, helped the District join ACAP Cape Breton’s Idle Free Zone Campaign, and installed energy efficient ventilation systems, T12 and LED bulbs in lighting systems throughout the District.

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