

# UNCANNY TOXICS

VANQUISHING AN  
INVISIBLE ENEMY

VOL 1





environmental  
defence  
INSPIRING CHANGE

**About ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE ([environmentaldefence.ca](http://environmentaldefence.ca))**  
Environmental Defence is Canada's most effective environmental action organization. We challenge, and inspire change in government, business and people to ensure a greener, healthier and prosperous life for all.

  
équiterre

**About ÉQUITERRE ([equiterre.org](http://equiterre.org))**  
Équiterre offers concrete solutions to accelerate the transition towards a society in which individuals, organizations and governments make ecological choices that are both healthy and equitable.

  
ecojustice

**About ECOJUSTICE ([ecojustice.ca](http://ecojustice.ca))**  
Ecojustice, Canada's largest environmental law charity, uses the power of the law to defend nature, combat climate change, and fight for a healthy environment for all.



CAPE  
Canadian Association  
of Physicians  
for the Environment

Association Canadienne  
des Médecins  
pour l'Environnement  
ACME

**About CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ([cape.ca](http://cape.ca))**

CAPE is the only doctor-run organization in Canada that is dedicated to improving human health by protecting the environment.



Tides Canada

**About TIDES CANADA ([tidescanada.org](http://tidescanada.org))**

Tides Canada's mission is to provide uncommon solutions for the common good by helping Canadians secure a healthy environment in ways that promote social equity and economic prosperity. Tides Canada provides strategy, expertise, and tools to ensure change makers can get from vision to impact.

ILLUSTRATED BY  
ERIC KOSTIUK WILLIAMS



IT'S A MORNING LIKE ANY OTHER...

OOOH, YUM!

TURKEY SANDWICH, MY FAVOURITE!

I'M ALMOST DONE WITH THE DISHES!

TIME TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL, SWEETIE.

MAKE SURE YOU BRUSH REALLY WELL! YOU DON'T WANT ANY CAVITIES, BELIEVE ME.

BUT LITTLE DO THEY KNOW, SOMETHING INSIDIOUS AND UNSEEN IS AFOOT --

-- HARMFUL, TOXIC CHEMICALS, LURKING IN THE PRODUCTS THEY USE EVERY DAY!

BEAR WITNESS, IF YOU DARE...

...TO THE TOXIC TRIO!

### TRICLOSAN

AN INTELLIGENT, MANIPULATIVE CON ARTIST THAT HIDES IN ANTI-BACTERIAL SOAP, PRETENDING TO KILL GERMS...BUT DOES IT?

### BPA

THE TOUGHEST OF THEM ALL, CREATED TO BE UNBREAKABLE! IT LIVES IN OUR FOOD PACKAGING, BUT RARELY STAYS THERE!

### PHTHALATES

AS A MASTER CONTORTIONIST, IT CAN TAKE ANY SHAPE AND LIVES UNDER COVER, BUT IN PLAIN SIGHT... YOU CAN SMELL IT FROM MILES AWAY!

GOOD LUCK STUDYING WITH ME IN YOUR SYSTEM, KID!

IF ONLY YOU KNEW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO TO YOUR HORMONE SYSTEM!

OVER TIME, THE TOXIC TRIO, UNDER CLEVER DISGUISE, CREEPS INTO THEIR BODIES.

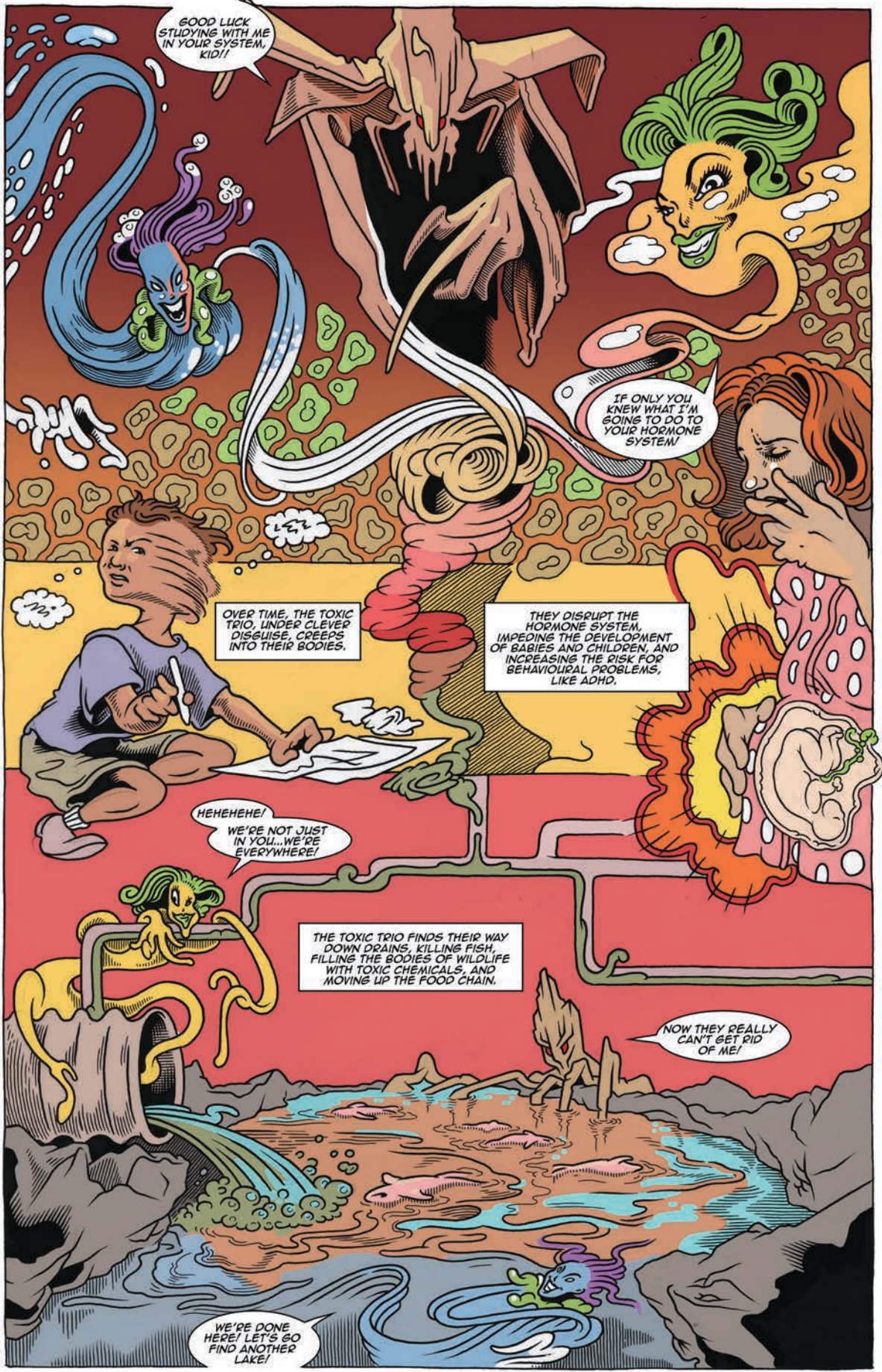
THEY DISRUPT THE HORMONE SYSTEM, IMPEDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BABIES AND CHILDREN, AND INCREASING THE RISK FOR BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS, LIKE ADHD.

HEHEHEHE!  
WE'RE NOT JUST IN YOU...WE'RE EVERYWHERE!

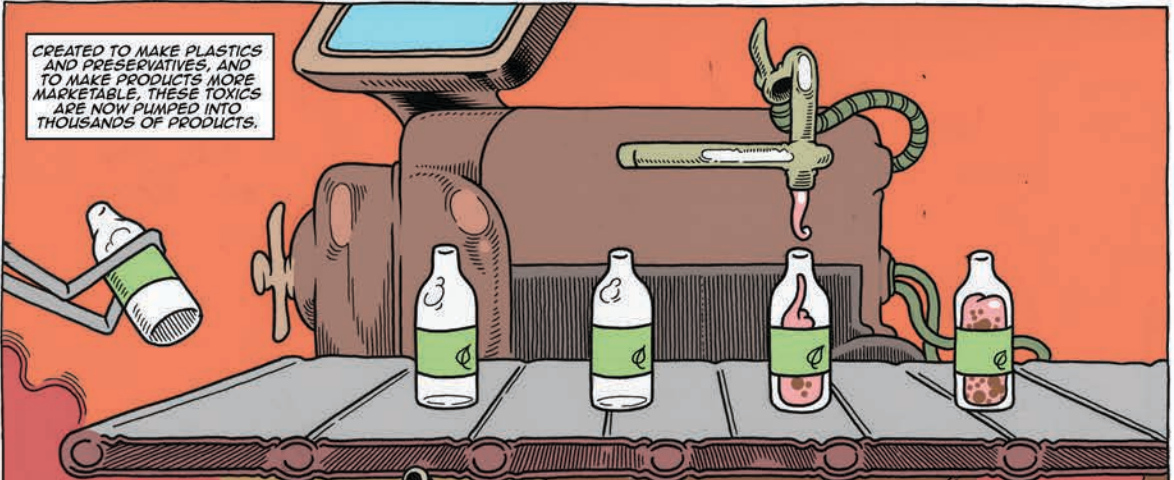
THE TOXIC TRIO FINDS THEIR WAY DOWN DRAINS, KILLING FISH, FILLING THE BODIES OF WILDLIFE WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS, AND MOVING UP THE FOOD CHAIN.

NOW THEY REALLY CAN'T GET RID OF ME!

WE'RE DONE HERE! LET'S GO FIND ANOTHER LAKE!



CREATED TO MAKE PLASTICS AND PRESERVATIVES, AND TO MAKE PRODUCTS MORE MARKETABLE, THESE TOXICS ARE NOW PUMPED INTO THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTS.



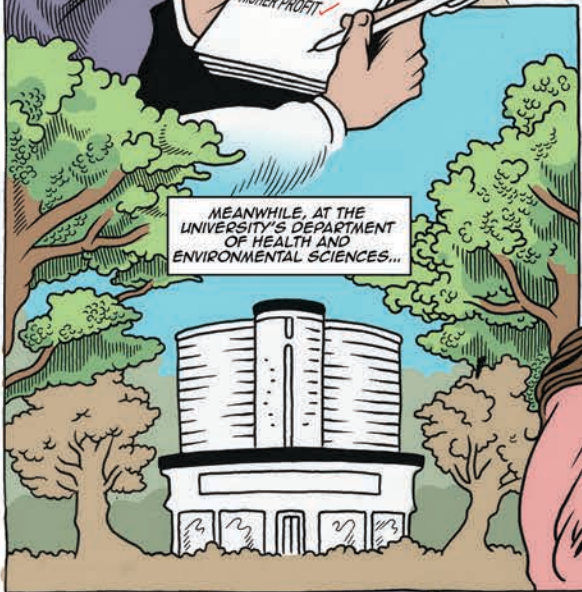
I THINK IT'S ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT -- KUDOS.

MMM, YES...

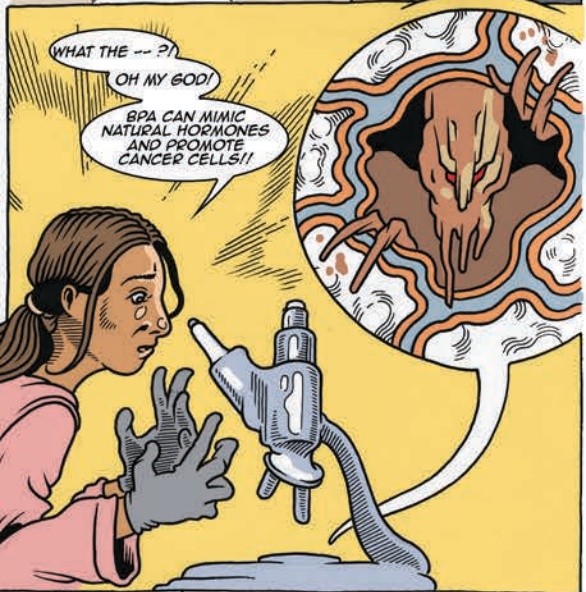
OUR NEXT QUARTER WILL BE THE BEST YET.

LET'S DO THIS.

MARKETING PLAN  
ANTIBACTERIAL ✓  
LAVENDER-SCENTED ✓  
LONGER SHELF LIFE ✓  
ECO-FRIENDLY ✓  
HIGHER PROFIT ✓



MEANWHILE, AT THE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES...



WHAT THE -- ?!

OH MY GOD!

BPA CAN MIMIC NATURAL HORMONES AND PROMOTE CANCER CELLS!!



I'VE NEVER SEEN THE WAITING ROOM THIS FULL!

I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE THIS... PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE GETTING CANCER SO YOUNG!

MEDICAL CENTRI

THOUGH ALL HOPE SEEMS LOST, THIS TROUBLING INFORMATION EVENTUALLY REACHES CANADA'S HEALTH MINISTER...



WE CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS... I WON'T LET MY SON GROW UP WITH THESE CHEMICALS POISONING HIM EVERY DAY!  
YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!



AS WORD SPREADS ABOUT THE TOXICS, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE FEEL EMPOWERED TO SPEAK OUT.



IT'S TRUE... HMM...  
WE NEED STRONGER LAWS TO PROTECT CANADIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT!  
...WE'VE GOT THIS!



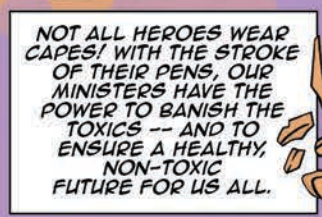
Canadian Environmental Protection Act of 2018



HA!  
NOT SO TOUGH NOW, TOXIC TRIO!



NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES! WITH THE STROKE OF THEIR PENS, OUR MINISTERS HAVE THE POWER TO BANISH THE TOXICS -- AND TO ENSURE A HEALTHY, NON-TOXIC FUTURE FOR US ALL.



THE END... FOR NOW!

# TIPS ON HOW TO DEFEAT THE TOXIC TRIO



## BISPHENOL A (BPA)

- AVOID CANNED FOOD AND BEVERAGES WHEN POSSIBLE. CHOOSE FRESH FOODS, OR FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN GLASS JARS
- STAY AWAY FROM PLASTIC CONTAINERS WITH RECYCLING SYMBOL 3 AND 7, THAT INCLUDES DISPOSABLE AND REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES
- BE AWARE OF ITEMS LABELLED AS "BPA-FREE" AS THEY CAN CONTAIN POTENTIALLY HARMFUL ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS BPS AND BPF
- AVOID LEAVING PLASTIC CONTAINERS AND WATER BOTTLES OUT IN THE SUN
- DO NOT HEAT UP FOOD IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- BPA AND OTHER BISPHENOLS ARE FOUND IN THERMAL PAPER USED IN MANY CASH REGISTERS AND CREDIT CARD TERMINALS. ASK FOR NO STORE RECEIPT OR AN ELECTRONIC RECEIPT.



## TRICLOSAN

- AVOID TOOTHPASTES THAT LABEL TRICLOSAN AS AN INGREDIENT
- AVOID SOAPS AND SANITIZERS LABELLED AS "ANTIBACTERIAL" OR "GERM-KILLING". GOOD OLD-FASHIONED NON-TOXIC SOAP AND WATER IS ALL THE PROTECTION YOU NEED.



## PHTHALATES

- STAY AWAY FROM PRODUCTS, INCLUDING COSMETICS AND CLEANERS, THAT DO NOT LIST ALL THE INGREDIENTS USED AND ONLY LIST "FRAGRANCE" OR "PARFUM" - THIS IS WHERE PHTHALATES ARE HIDDEN
- DITCH HAND-ME-DOWN CHILDREN'S PLASTIC TOYS, INCLUDING TEETHERS, BOTTLES, AND RUBBER DUCKS

TAKE ACTION: [ENVIRONMENTALDEFENCE.CA/TOXICS](http://ENVIRONMENTALDEFENCE.CA/TOXICS)

WHO HAS THE POWER  
TO STOP THEM?

