



CAPE
Canadian Association
of Physicians
for the Environment

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HEALTH FACTS ABOUT DATA CENTRES

What doctors want you to know about gas-powered data centres and human health

Every day doctors see how damage to the environment harms human health. When industries pollute the air, water, and soil, our patients pay the price. That's why the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment wants to share what we know about **gas-powered data centres**.

AI data centres need a lot of energy to run, so Alberta's current power grid cannot support them. Instead, they will be fuelled by on-site natural gas generators. This type of generator has been studied extensively, so we know there are **health risks for communities that live near them**:

- Air pollution
- Noise pollution
- Heavy water use
- Toxic "forever chemicals"
- Pressure on overburdened rural healthcare systems



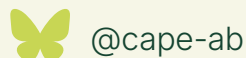
cape.ca



ab@cape.ca



@cape_ab



@cape-ab

YOUR VOICE MATTERS! Urge elected leaders to demand evidence-based **health impact assessments before approving new data centres**. Communities deserve to know how proposed data centres might damage the air, water and soil that they depend on and a **real plan to protect their health**.



Air Pollution

Data centre gas generators release harmful air pollutants:

- Nitrogen oxides trigger and worsen **asthma** and chronic **bronchitis**. They've also been linked to **dementia**.
- Fine airborne particles are small enough to enter your bloodstream. They contribute to **heart attacks, strokes, and lung disease**.
- Volatile organic compounds — including benzene and formaldehyde — increase the **risk of cancer** with repeated exposure.
- Together, these pollutants have been linked to **earlier deaths**. Long-term exposure is **dangerous** even when emissions are below regulatory limits.



Noise Pollution

Large industrial operations like data centres make a lot of noise. Long-term exposure to noise pollution is linked to **poor sleep, headaches, high blood pressure, heart disease, stress, and learning difficulties in children**.



Healthcare Costs

Rural communities already face doctor shortages and emergency room closures. Large infrastructure projects like data centres bring in new workers. That means more patients, more emergency room visits, and more **pressure on our healthcare system**.

COMPLIANT DOES NOT MEAN SAFE

Meeting an emissions standard doesn't mean the air is safe for everyone. People with asthma, heart conditions, or lung disease are harmed at levels that healthy adults might tolerate.



Toxic “Forever Chemicals”

PFAS can leak from data-centre cooling systems and electrical components, contaminating air, soil and water. Exposure to these chemicals is linked to **birth defects, thyroid disease, and weakened immune systems**.



Water Stress

Data centres require massive cooling systems that use

millions of litres of water per day. Many Alberta communities are already struggling with drought. Heavy water use from data centres could take a toll on **food security, mental health, and community stability**.



Who pays the price?

All of these health risks pose the biggest threat to our **most vulnerable** patients:

- Young children and infants
- Older adults
- Pregnant people
- People with chronic illnesses & disabilities