Dear Community Group Members:

The right to a healthy environment is the simple idea that all Canadians deserve the right to clean air, clean water and safe food. More than 110 countries in the world recognize their citizens' right to a healthy environment, but many Canadians are surprised to learn that Canada does not. Half the Canadian population lives in areas with unsafe levels of air pollution - this is certainly an issue for Edmonton!

The Blue Dot Movement is calling on municipalities across Canada to sign a declaration recognizing the right to a healthy environment. A municipal declaration is a commitment by the municipality to address local environmental concerns. Local government action is crucial for promotion of environmental rights at the provincial and federal levels. Our eventual goal is to see the right to a healthy environment enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That way, environmental laws can only be strengthened, never weakened by the government of the day.

The organizers of Edmonton's Blue Dot Movement are building support for a municipal declaration of environmental rights for the City of Edmonton. We have formed a coalition, under the name HealthyYEG, with representatives of the Environmental Law Centre and the U of A Environmental Law Students Association. We have had promising meetings with Edmonton city officials, both in administration and council.

We are working to garner support from a broad base of individuals, community leagues and other community groups, to demonstrate to Edmonton City Council that the right to clean air, clean water and safe food is important to Edmontonians. We have drafted a motion that we hope you will ask your community group to sign and promote (attached).

Individuals can also help by tweeting or sending emails to their city councillor: (http://www.edmonton.ca/city\_government/city\_organization/city-councillors.aspx). You can like us on Facebook (Blue Dot Movement - Edmonton) and follow us on Twitter (@HealthyYEG).

Did you know that, to date, more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people across Canada have signed the Blue Dot petition and \_\_\_\_\_ Canadian municipalities have signed a municipal declaration of environmental rights? So far, we have only 2 declarations signed in Alberta: Camrose and Jasper. In 2016, let’s build the support needed for a declaration for the City of Edmonton!

For further information, please visit healthyYEG.org and bluedot.ca or contact Raquel Feroe (her community league has already signed on!) at rferoe@gmail.com or (780) 914-9995.

Raquel Feroe

HealthyYEG