



Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – View our March map to read a consult on concerns about toxoplasma gondii, beluga whale and food safety in *Point Hope, Alaska*. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our March map to see media reports from across the circumpolar north. Early break up and related problems in Western Canada; cold in the Eastern Canada brings good ice for harp seals. Record high temperatures break records in Finland, and make for a slushy Finnmarksløpet sled dog race in Norway. [ANTHC](#)

Cat parasite found in Western Arctic beluga whales February 17, 2014. For the first time toxoplasma gondii, a parasite that can affect humans, has been found infecting Arctic beluga whales. Researchers announced at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that they had detected an infectious form of *Toxoplasma gondii* in a beluga whale in the Beaufort Sea. The whale was killed by Inuit hunters. The meat of whales such as belugas is valued as a traditional Inuit food. [CBC](#)

For public health information see: [Preventing infection with toxoplasma gondii](#) by the State of Alaska Division of Public Health

Vitamin D would get more attention in proposed nutrition labels March 9, 2014. *Sam Freidman* - Last month, the Food and Drug Administration announced the first makeover in the 20-year history of the nutrition facts label. The new label features the same basic look but there are changes related to advances in the study of nutrition. Popular among Fairbanks Memorial Hospital's dietitians is the addition of vitamin D to the required list of nutrients that producers must list. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

Snowless winter could lead to summer frost February 16, 2014. A lack of snow could postpone the thawing of the earth by up to two months. MTT Finland has been studying the effects of snow cover on ground frost at the Halola research farm in Maaninka. At a plot cleared of snow, all plants died and the ground was frozen to a depth of two meters. The ground only started to thaw after midsummer. The research clearly shows what a big significance snow has in relation to the physical structure of the earth, plants and microbes. [Yle](#)

Video of the Week – The big thaw - beluga, Arctic parasites and climate change February, 2014. This video produced by the University of British Columbia describes the findings related to the emergence of toxoplasmosis gondii, a cat parasite in beluga whale and other Arctic sea mammals. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is read by people who are interested in climate change and public health in the circumpolar north. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, click [here](#).

Regards – Mike

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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities