

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Cardiac autonomic activity and blood pressure among Nunavik Inuit adults exposed to environmental mercury: a cross-sectional study.

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**Version:** 7 **Date:** 30 May 2008

**Author's response to reviews:** see over

Quebec City, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2008

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**OBJECT:** Manuscript 1071614343162017 version 6. Cardiac autonomic activity and blood pressure among Nunavik Inuit adults exposed to environmental mercury: a cross-sectional study.

Dear editors,

We would like to thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled "Cardiac autonomic activity and blood pressure among Nunavik Inuit adults exposed to environmental mercury: a cross-sectional study". We would also like to thank the reviewers for their thoughtful comments regarding our manuscript. Please find below our detailed response to the editors' comments.

We hope that you find our paper of interest to readers of Environmental Health. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to assess the influence of mercury on heart rate variability in adults and we consider that the results could be important for

professionals interested in environmental contaminants and human health. Taking into account your comments, we added the modifications to the revised version of the manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

For the authors,

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#### **AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION**

BV was involved in data analysis, interpretation of the results and in drafting the manuscript. ED is the principal investigator and has participated in the conception and design of the study, data collection and interpretation of the results. PP has participated in the conception and design of the study as well as in the interpretation of the results. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## COMMENTS FROM EDITORS

Manuscript 1071614343162017 version 6. Cardiac autonomic activity and blood pressure among Nunavik Inuit adults exposed to environmental mercury: a cross-sectional study.

**1) Your response in regard to selenium is useful, but you did not include this material in the revised manuscript (p.18). Please emphasize that selenium was a significant predictor in one of the multiple regressions (SBP) and close to significant for DBP and PP, and that selenium adjustment increased the mercury coefficients.**

As suggested, the information regarding the confounding effect of selenium was added to the revised manuscript.

**2) The list of abbreviations needs to be in a single paragraph.**

Done

**3) In the abstract, third line of the Methods, please change "exposure's biomarker" to "exposure biomarker". My apologies for not catching this before .**

Done