

Health and Environmental Organizations Support Ontario-wide Ban on Cosmetic Pesticides



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



Canadian Environmental
Law Association



Canadian
Cancer
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Société
canadienne
du cancer



ENVIRONMENTAL | DEFENCE



RNAO

Registered Nurses'
Association of Ontario
L'Association des
infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario



Learning Disabilities
Association of Canada

We support the Ontario government's plan to enact pesticide legislation and call for a law that:

- prohibits the use, sale and retail display of cosmetic/ornamental pesticides for outdoor, non-agricultural use (including pesticide/fertilizer combinations);
- allows exemptions only to protect public health;
- requires publicity of the ban and public education about alternatives to pesticides;
- includes effective mechanisms for enforcement; and
- is passed in 2008 and is phased in and fully implemented within the government's current mandate.



In a world of multiple chemical exposures, we must remove needless risks from lawn and garden pesticides.

Why We Support a Province-wide Ban on Cosmetic Pesticides

Cosmetic Pesticide Use is a Public Health Issue, Particularly For Children

- The Pesticides Literature Review released by the Ontario College of Family Physicians, showed “consistent links to serious illnesses, such as cancer, reproductive problems and neurological diseases.”¹
- It is well established that children are at a greater risk from pesticide exposure than adults.²
- “Recently, the Quebec government* studied the body burden of chemicals that children in the province carry. Though 98% of all children tested were found to have pesticides from food, water and air in their bodies, **the tests did not find any lawn-care herbicides in the bodies of children living in municipalities with a ban. In municipalities without a ban, these lawn-care herbicides were found in children's bodies in addition to the other pesticides.**”³
* Quebec's National Institute of Public Health

Pesticide Bans Work – Quebec's Success Story

- Statistics Canada 2006 Households and the Environment Report⁴ attests that regulations effectively reduce urban pesticide use. The first with municipal bylaws, and then with a new Pesticides Management Code effective in 2005, Quebec has the lowest rate of household pesticide use in Canada at 15% - a 50% reduction in pesticide use since 1994.

Alternatives to Lawn and Garden Pesticides Work and Are Good For Business

- Cultural practices such as mowing high, over-seeding and topdressing restore ecological soil health. Products such as corn gluten meal and nematodes are widely available through retail and lawncare service providers.
- Statistics Canada Business Patterns data shows that the horticultural trades have increased in number and size in Toronto and Halifax, both with restrictive pesticide bylaws.^{5 6 7}

A Cosmetic Pesticide Ban in Ontario has Broad Public Support

- 2007 Oracle Poll of 1,000 Ontario residents shows 71% of Ontario citizens support province-wide restrictions on pesticides.⁸
- 2006/2007 Decima poll⁹ shows protecting our environment is the top priority of Ontario citizens.

¹ Ontario College of Family Physicians, News Release, April 23, 2005

www.ocfp.on.ca/English/OCFP/Communications/CurrentIssues/Pesticides/

² CPCHE, 2005. Primer on Child Health and the Environment. www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca

Toronto Public Health, 2005. Environmental Threats to Children: Understanding the Risks, Enabling Prevention. www.toronto.ca

³ www.panna.org/magazine/summer2006/inDepthQuebecCode.html Valcke, M. et.al. 2004. Characterization of the exposure to residential-use pesticides in children aged 3 to 7 years in Quebec. National Institute of Public Health, Quebec.

⁴ www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/11-526-XIE/11-526-XIE2007001.pdf

⁵ www.toronto.ca/health/pesticides/index.htm

⁶ Statistics Canada. 2006. Business Register. Canadian Business Patterns (2001-2006).

⁷ www.flora.org/healthyottawa/Backgrounder-1.pdf

⁸ www.pesticidereform.ca/Poll.PDF

⁹ www.decima.com/en/pdf/news_releases/070105E.pdf