New Brunswick Pesticides Coalition

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Wednesday, August 8th, 2001

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Receives Support from over 275,000 New Brunswickers

A coalition of health and environmental organizations in New Brunswick announced that they have received representative support from nearly one third of the Province's population. This group, the New Brunswick Pesticides Coalition, aims to have cosmetic lawn pesticides banned in New Brunswick by 2003.

The steering committee for the coalition, comprised of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Falls Brook Centre, New Brunswick Lung Association, Wild Circle and Moncton based Down-to-Earth has contacted and received support from many organizations in the province. These include The Learning Disabilities Association of NB, The Nurses Association of NB, The NB Association of Social Workers, The NB Federation of Labour, the Town of Quispamsis and numerous environmental groups. Municipalities, organizations and individuals have been contacted across the province with a resolution and sign-on letter drafted by the NB Pesticides Coalition. This resolution supports the banning of cosmetic pesticides by 2003.

Lia Daborn of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick affirms, "There is a growing body of evidence which demonstrates that exposure to toxic substances in our environment can interfere with the intellectual development and future fertility of children and reproduction in wildlife populations. The risks posed by cosmetic pesticides to children include attention deficits, diseases of the blood and cancer. These chemicals are of special concern because of the frequent opportunities for exposure by parents, pregnant women, infants and children."

"We can no longer ignore the health risks posed by exposure to these chemicals," comments Kenneth Maybee, President and CEO of the New Brunswick Lung Association. "These pesticides are used for aesthetic purposes. By eliminating the risk of exposure to these chemicals, we can reduce the impact on our health and the environment".

According to Marieka Arnold of the Falls Brook Centre, "The provincial government, in partnership with health and environmental organizations and municipalities in NB must develop a strategy for the gradual phase-out of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes, because the people of our province are demanding it."

Michel DesNeiges of Down-to-Earth states, "The New Brunswick government has been slow in taking this issue seriously. For years, the Province and many of its municipalities

pushed back the issue under the pretext that the federal government had jurisdiction on the matter. However, a recent Federal Supreme Court ruling gives the power of such decisions to local governments. Since that time, citizens in municipalities throughout the country are eager to push for pesticide bans and provincial governments such as Quebec have made public statements recognising the importance of the issue and the need to go forward. We are waiting for such movement on the part of the New Brunswick government."

The NB Pesticide Coalition met last week with representatives in the Department of Environment and Local Government. At this meeting they presented the resolution supporting the ban of cosmetic pesticides, in addition to the list of organizations and individuals who endorse it. They expect to hear a response from the Province by the end of August.

Additional support for the Resolution will be happily accepted by any of the Coalition member groups listed above.

-30-

Contacts:
Lia Daborn, Conservation Council 506-458-8747
Michel DesNeiges, Down-to-Earth 506-858-4099
Kenneth Maybee, President and CEO, NB Lung Association 506-455-8961
Marieka Arnold, Falls Brook Centre, 506-375-4310

Resolution Calling for the Ban of Cosmetic Pesticides in New Brunswick

Whereas:

Chemical pesticides are toxic substances designed to kill living organisms;

Scientific and medical journals increasingly report risks posed to human health by pesticides such as links between pesticides and breast cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, brain cancer and childhood leukemia;

Fetuses and children are particularly vulnerable to toxic chemicals because of their developing systems;

Whereas

Human health is ultimately dependant on the health of the environment;

The use of cosmetic pesticides can have a detrimental effect on wildlife, plants, and other living organisms that come into direct contact with these toxic substances;

Run-off from precipitation, when mixed with pesticides, can be deleterious to fish, and detrimental to drinking water supplies, fish habitat, watercourses, and marine life;

Whereas the cosmetic use of pesticides is solely for aesthetic reasons;

Whereas:

A strategic goal of the New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness is to:

"A*ssist New Brunswickers to achieve and maintain "good health" through coordination*
and mutually supportive prevention, protection, and promotion activities";

Canada signed and ratified the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states: "*In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied.... Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.";*

Canada signed the Declaration of the Environment Leaders of the Eight (G-8) on Children's Environmental Health which gives priority to environmental issues affecting children's health;

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development recommended in its May 2000 report entitled "Pesticides - Making the Right Choice for the Protection of Health and the Environment." that: "*the new Pest Control Act prohibit the registration and re-registration of pesticides intended for cosmetic uses"* and "*the government, in partnership with the provinces, territories, and municipalities develop a strategy for the gradual phase-out of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes."*;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the undersigned organizations, municipalities, and individuals, call on the Government of New Brunswick to:

Develop a communications strategy to prepare landscape and lawn care companies to offer exclusively organic services.

Assist the Municipalities of New Brunswick to convert to the use of non toxic alternatives to pesticides for cosmetic purposes within their boundaries.

Develop a strategy and the means to educate the people of New Brunswick about the benefits and use of non-toxic methods of maintaining attractive green spaces around their homes and properties.

Be it further resolved that the undersigned organizations, municipalities, and individuals, call on the government of New Brunswick to ban of the sale, supply and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes within the Province of New Brunswick by the year 2003 under the authority granted to the Minister in section 8B of the Pesticides Control Act.

Number of New Brunswickers represented

- · Association pour la préservation du bassin versant de Bouctouche, Boutouche 221
- · Bathurst Sustainable Development, Bathurst 53
- · Campaign for Pesticide Reduction-New Brunswick, Quispamsis 6
- · Citizen's Coalition for Clean Air, Saint John 100
- · Clearinghouse Group, Carleton County 10
- · Coalition 2001, Edmundston
- · Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Fredericton 500
- · Coopérative O Naturel Ltée, Kedgwick 3
- · Falls Brook Centre, Knowlesville 450
- · Ford Alward Naturalists, Carleton County 45
- · Glassville Youth Group, Glassville 25
- · Kinfolk for Natural Living, Dorchester 5
- · Kintore Hills Forest Watch Group, Perth Andover 60
- · Knowlesville Women's Institute, Knowlesville 45
- · Learning Disabilities Association of NB, Fredericton 70 000*
- · New Brunswick Lung Association, Fredericton 151 500*

- · New Brunswick Association of Social Workers, Fredericton 1 226
- · New Brunswick Federation of Labour, Moncton 32 000
- · Nurses Association of New Brunswick, Fredericton 8 700
- · People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE), Moncton 15
- · Petitcodiac Riverkeeper, Moncton 100
- · Sierra Club Atlantic Canada Chapter, Moncton
- · STU/UNB Environmental Society, Fredericton 40
- · Tantramar Environmental Alliance (TEA), Sackville 20
- · Terre-à-Terre / Down-to-Earth, Moncton 10
- · Town of Quispamsis, Quispamsis 13 521

*Represents a percentage of the population of New Brunswick based on Statistics Canada figures.