

May 8, 2001

To: NBEN member groups

From: Pesticides Caucus

If YOUR GROUP wants to

combat the use of pesticides in the province,
WE want YOUR GROUP to sign on to a resolution! (See below)

To date the signatories are :

- Campaign for Pesticide Reduction-New Brunswick, Quispamsis
- Citizen's Coalition for Clean Air, Saint John
- Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Fredericton
- Falls Brook Centre, Knowlesville
- NB Lung Association, Fredericton
- Petitcodiac Riverkeeper, Moncton

The Pesticides Caucus of the New Brunswick Environmental Network encourages the government to implement a moratorium on the use of cosmetic pesticides in New Brunswick.

In order for this to work, ***we need your support.***

Why Pesticides?

There are concerns about the health and environmental effects of chemicals used as pesticides. Some disrupt the nervous system, others have been linked to childhood diseases such as leukemia, others have been associated with breast cancer, non-hodgkins lymphoma and diseases of the blood. Several have been identified as endocrine-disruptors, meaning that they can affect reproduction and development in wildlife and humans. The fetus and unborn child is at greatest risk. ... But adults are also at risk.

The problem with pesticides is that although they are applied in one place, they do not stay there. They float on the wind, seep into groundwater and get carried into houses on shoes or animal paws.

Once inside your house, pesticides may not break down as they would outdoors. They can remain in the dust and in the air which you and your family breathe.

Why Now?

In May 2000, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development issued their report called Pesticides: Making the Right Choice for the Protection of Health and the Environment. In that report, the Committee recommended a moratorium on use of pesticides for aesthetic purposes. Many communities across Canada have instituted pesticide bans, the most recent being Halifax. This is a trend which will continue to grow. However, it is uncertain whether the municipalities actually have the authority to do this. But in New Brunswick, the Minister of Environment and Local Government can.

What is the Campaign?

Under Section 8(b) of the Pesticides Control Act, the Minister of Health and Wellness (Dr. Denis Furlong) can request that Minister Jardine restrict the sale, supply and use of pesticides. We want this to happen, and we are working to make sure it does by forming a caucus and soliciting support from groups like yours throughout the province of New Brunswick.

What can you do?

Endorse the statement below. Simply reply to the NBEN that you will support this campaign and support the statement and call for action. The statement will be presented to Minister Jardine and copied to Minister Furlong as well as the federal Ministers of Health and Environment, and the Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee. We hope that by presenting a united front and representing many different sectors of the New Brunswick population, we will provide Minister Jardine with irrefutable arguments.

It's as simple as that.

Thank you for your support.

Please reply as soon as you can.

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:
"Assist 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, 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 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.