

Multiple groups
c/o New Brunswick Environmental Network
22 Church Street, Suite T390
Moncton, NB
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April 26, 2018

Dr. Jennifer Russell, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
Department of Health, Province of New Brunswick
HSBC Place, 5th Floor
P. O. Box 5100
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5G8
(E-mail: jennifer.russell@gnb.ca)

Dear Dr. Jennifer Russell,

RE: New Brunswick groups request community cancer rates to be released

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the possible health impacts and the known environmental impacts on deer numbers here in New Brunswick from the widespread glyphosate spraying of forest clearcuts/plantations and transmission lines. We have major concerns about the exposure of humans to drifting spray, the persistence of the glyphosate chemical in the soil which could contaminate blueberries, raspberries, and other forest food crops, and whether humans are eating meat and organs of deer, moose, and other game that is contaminated with glyphosate.

The potential impacts to human health is especially important in New Brunswick where half of our population live in rural communities.

Many living in rural communities feel that their way of life – a key determinant of human health – is under attack. The loss of the natural environment near their homes, surrounding forests and waterways, and the destruction of animal and bird habitats in traditional hunting areas, has been dramatic and certainly impacts New Brunswickers' emotional wellbeing. For example, the deer population here in New Brunswick is now ¼ what it was 30 years ago (from 250,000 individuals to 70,000). Deer have simply vanished from many long-standing hunting territories. It is no surprise that an unprecedented number of New Brunswickers, over 35,000, have already signed the petition against glyphosate spraying tabled in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick.

We request that the Acting Chief Medical Officer produce a New Brunswick Glyphosate Report that uses health data from New Brunswick. We ask that the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of New Brunswick examine and compare cancer rates among several communities within New

Brunswick. The last provincial cancer report was released in 2010 and the cancer rates were only reported for the province's seven health regions, rather than at a community level.

Some provincial cancer agencies (e.g., Nova Scotia, Ontario) already record cancer and other health data at smaller geographic scales such as postal code level. It is possible in New Brunswick that cancer counts and year and age at diagnosis can be calculated for Canada's Census Subdivisions (CSD) codes. Maps with New Brunswick CSD codes can be found on Statistics Canada's website. Such a study would provide cancer rates at a community level rather than reporting on cancer rates in much larger geographic areas. Dividing up the cancer data into only seven health regions does not provide New Brunswick communities with meaningful information that their residents can use.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue here in New Brunswick.

Signed by:

Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network
Canoose Watershed Protection Council
Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee
Citizens Coalition for Clean Air
Concerned Citizens of Saint John
Conservation Council of NB
Council of Canadians – Fredericton Chapter
Council of Canadians – Kent County Chapter
Council of Canadians – Saint John Chapter
Doaktown Health Alliance
EcoVie, Kedgwick
EOS Eco-Energy
Friends of Mount Carleton Provincial Park Inc.
Miramichi Headwaters Salmon Federation Inc.
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
New Brunswick Lung Association
OCIA Atlantic
PEACE-NB
Public for the Protection of the Forests of New Brunswick
Recherche indépendante de retraité en écologie
Red Head Anthony's Cove Preservation Association
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
Sierra Club Canada Foundation - Atlantic Canada Chapter
Stop Spraying NB
Sustainable Energy Group - Carleton Chapter
Tantramar Alliance Against Hydrofracking
Taymouth Environmental Action
Water & Environmental Protection for Albert County