



August 29, 2018

Multiple groups
c/o New Brunswick Environmental Network
22 Church Street, Suite T390
Moncton, NB E1C 0P7

RE: NB groups request community cancer rates to be released

Thank you for your letter requesting the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) to examine and compare community level cancer rates in New Brunswick.

I am happy to inform you that the New Brunswick Cancer Network within the Department of Health has just published the NB Provincial Cancer Report, 2007-2013. It can be found on our website at <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health.html>. This report expands on previously published information with the addition of cancer prevalence, cancer survival by stage for the four top cancers and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of the geographical distribution for the four leading cancers across NB. The report has not found any difference among cancer rates in different health regions. In New Brunswick, information on cancer cases is collected at the postal code level. However, with respect to your request for NB to produce a Glyphosate Report that reports on community level data, reporting rates on such small scales or even at the census subdivision scale, would not be statistically accurate due to the small number of cases which will lead to unstable or unreliable rates. Please note that the Department of Health also partners with the New Brunswick Health Council to publish community profiles on regular basis for 33 communities across New Brunswick which includes information on the proportion of cancer cases in each of these communities.

I refer you to the *Results of the OCMOH Action Plan on Glyphosate* published in 2016 which is located at <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/hs/pdf/en/Publications/GlyphosateActionPlanResults.pdf> and summarizes the key findings. Health Canada finalized their reassessment of glyphosate in April 2017 and under the authority of the Pest Control Products Act and Regulations, granted continued registration of products containing glyphosate for sale and use in Canada. The final PMRA report is available here <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/registration-decision/2017/glyphosate-rvd-2017-01.html>.

At your discretion, feel free to forward this response to the 28 citizens across New Brunswick that were included in your letter dated April 11, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Russell".

Dr. Jennifer Russell, BA, BSc, MD, CCFP
Chief Medical Officer of Health