

August 1997

Presentation to the Minister of the Environment

Quispamsis Environment Committee

The Federal government regulates which pesticides are acceptable and which are not and the Provincial Government regulates the users of these pesticides. We have so many different governmental dept's actually involved in pesticide control that we do not really know who is responsible for what. And through Harmonization, the Federal Government wants to give the Provincial government more power when they can't seem to handle that which they have.

I am a cancer survivor and I have a son who suffers from Environmental illness that was caused by ambiguous toxic cleaners used in his school building that fail to be eliminated from our society even though the health issues are very clear. I am usually told that my concerns should be addressed by the Dept of Education, or I should talk to the Dept of Health but the laws are so very unclear.

The pesticides that poison my child are regulated by the Dept of the Environment, but the buck is passed from one Dept to another and no one takes a stand for the health of our children.

Apathy is killing us, what we need is a government that lives up to their 1993 Election promises and gives us a stronger Pest Control Products Act that says the buck stops here. does not bend to large chemical companies... What my son needs is a Government that will consider his health and future as an important Environmental issue and protect him from the likes of Monsanto and Dow Corning. That is a Dept of Health issue, but is it.

We need Stronger Environmental protection and Pest control legislation that takes into consideration the human factor...the hormone disrupters that cause breast cancer, the neurotoxins that stop Canadian children from learning as they should, the pollutants that take my breath away.

After years of passing the buck I have reached out to my School District and my Municipal Government to afford my son some protection...This year in New Brunswick all schools will have more Environmentally friendly cleaners, and in our district in particular there are no pesticides or VOC's what so ever... and Municipally we are looking at a Right to Know By-law that affords my son some protection from the pesticides that cause blisters to form in his nose and bleed... but I should not have to rely on these local authorities to protect my son from something that is Federally regulated...

So I ask you to take responsibility for the children and seriously look at these toxic chemicals and determine which is more important Industry's desire for the almighty buck or our Children and the Environment that sustains them.