

Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws

Platform Statement

Cosmetic pesticides – those chemicals used to control pests in outdoor spaces like lawns and gardens – are unsafe and unnecessary for the maintenance of green and healthy greenspace. With current regulations, it is virtually impossible to avoid exposure to these chemicals.

Cosmetic Pesticides Are Unsafe

- Acute effects of pesticide exposure range from irritation of the nose, eyes and throat, burning, itches and rashes to nausea, vomiting, headaches and general malaise;ⁱ
- Scientific studies reveal links between pesticide exposure and higher risk of leukemiaⁱⁱ, non-Hodgkin's lymphomaⁱⁱⁱ, soft tissue sarcomas^{iv} and prostate cancer;^v
- Children are particularly susceptible to harm from pesticides, both in utero and during childhood. Pesticides may cause birth defects^{vi}, developmental delays^{vii}, hyperactivity⁷, behavioural disorders⁷, motor dysfunction⁷, nervous system disruption⁸ and immunotoxicity.^{ix}
- Studies have found cosmetic pesticides to contaminate urban watersheds – the source of drinking water and key to ecological sustainability – throughout the Great Lakes basin.^x

Pesticide Exposure is Currently Unavoidable

We are exposed to pesticides in virtually all aspects of our lives. Canada's regulatory framework allows for the continued development and use of cosmetic pesticides while depriving us of the right to live protected from these exposures. The pesticide industry publicly promises continued use of chemicals for the maintenance of lawns and gardens.

Cosmetic Pesticides Are Unnecessary

Healthy, disease-resistant lawns and gardens are possible through chemical-free horticultural methods. A growing sector of pesticide-free lawn care and landscaping companies provides opportunities for workers and industries interested in phasing-out chemicals.^{xi}

For these reasons, we have come together to support the adoption of municipal pesticide bylaws, and to oppose the exclusive adoption of voluntary initiatives advocated by the pesticide industry.

The Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the right of municipalities to restrict the use of pesticides on both public and private property. Pesticide bylaws are a necessary complement to federal and provincial regulations in order to fully guarantee the rights of citizens to be protected from pesticide exposure.

We seek municipal bylaws that would include public education programs and phased-in prohibitions of cosmetic pesticides on private property. We will work together to educate and encourage our members, citizens and locally-elected officials to support precautionary bylaws in their communities.

August 2002

Members as of November 8th, 2002

Ontario College of Family Physicians

Canadian Environmental Law Association

Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

Association of Early Childhood Educators, Ontario

United Steel Workers of America

Humane Society of Canada

Great Lakes United

Breast Cancer Prevention Coalition

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Women's Healthy Environments Network

Toronto Environmental Alliance

Pesticide Free Ontario

ⁱⁱ Reigert, J.R. and J.R. Roberts. 1999. *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings, Fifth Edition*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Briggs, S.A. 1992. *Basic Guide to Pesticides: Their Characteristics and Hazards*

ⁱⁱ Leiss, J., Savitz D. 1995. Home pesticide use and childhood cancer; a case control study. *Am J Public Health* 85:249-52 and Daniels O., Savitz D. Pesticides and childhood cancers. *Environ Health Perspect* 105(10).

ⁱⁱⁱ Cox C. 1995. Dicamba. *J Pesticide Reform* 14(1). and Morrison, HI et al. 1992. Herbicides and cancer. *J Natl Cancer Inst*: 84 (24) 1866-8.

^{iv} Dick J. et al. 1997. Pesticides and cancer. *Cancer Causes and Control* 8:420-43. and Smith, JG and Christophers, AJ. 1992. Penoxo herbicides and chlorophenols: a case control study on soft tissue sarcoma and malignant lymphoma. *Br J Cancer* 65 (3): 442-48.

^v Van Der Gulden et al. 1996. Farmers at risk for prostate cancer. *Br J Urology* 77 (1): 6-14.

^{vi} Brender, JD, Suarez, L. 1990 Paternal occupation and encephaly. *Am J Epidemiol*. 11:517-21. and Sever LE et al. 1997. Reproductive and developmental effects of occupational pesticide exposure: the epidemiological evidence. *Occupational Medicine; State of the Art Reviews*. 12 (2): 303-25.

^{vii} Guilette, EA et al. 1998. An anthropological approach to the evaluation of preschool children exposed to pesticides in Mexico. *Environ Health Perspect*. 106: 347-53.

^{viii} Ecobichon D. 1994. Organophosphorus ester insecticides. In: *Pesticides and Neurological Diseases* (Ecobichon DJ, Joy RM, eds). CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL; pp 71-250.

⁹ Voccia, J et al. 1999. Immunotoxicity and pesticides: a review. *Toxicol Ind Hlth*. 15: 119-32.

¹⁰ Struger, J et al. 1998. Pesticide Concentrations in Urban Aquatic Environments (unpublished) and Struger, J et al. 1994 "Chapter 6: Environmental Concentrations of Urban Pesticides" in *Current Practices in Modeling the Management of Stormwater Impacts*. CRC Press. Boca Raton, FL. pp 85-98.

¹¹ See the Organic Landscape Alliance (www.organiclandscape.org)