

November 23, 2007

Open letter to Shawn Graham - Ban on Cosmetic Use of Pesticides in New Brunswick

Dear Premier Graham,

There is growing public momentum to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides in the Province of New Brunswick. Since the cosmetic use of pesticides has no countervailing health benefit and has the potential to cause harm, we, the undersigned, support a complete provincial ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides on lawns and gardens. Exposure to pesticides, particularly where safer alternatives exist, is no longer acceptable. Municipalities have enacted bans but, ultimately, a provincial ban will ensure a consistent approach to this health hazard.

Our position is based on the precautionary principle, which states that when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or to the environment, precautionary measures should be taken. The evidence of harm from pesticides continues to grow. Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of pesticides because their bodies and brains are growing and developing quickly. Exposure to substances that affect developing organs and body systems can cause damage that lasts a lifetime.

We all deserve to enjoy protection from environmental contaminants and toxic chemicals. A provincial ban on cosmetic pesticides is one step toward a healthier New Brunswick. It is, very simply, the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Association des éco-citoyennes et éco-citoyens d'Edmundston
Astro Club Borealis
Bathurst Sustainable Development
Campaign for Pesticide Reduction - Quispamsis, New Brunswick
Canadian Cancer Society New Brunswick
Canadian Organic Growers - NB Chapter
Citizens Coalition for Clean Air
Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska, Itée
Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Environnement Vie
Falls Brook Centre
Friends of Rockwood Park, Inc.
Gagetown Going Green
Green Party of Canada, Saint John EDA
Groupe du bassin versant de la région de Cap-Pelé Inc.
Les Intendants du Madawaska
Moncton and District Labour Council
Nature Moncton
New Brunswick Breast Cancer Network
New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice
New Brunswick Lung Association
New Brunswick Partners in Agriculture
Organic Crop Improvement Association - New Brunswick Chapter
PANE, For a new perspective on Energy
Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group
Petitcodiac Riverkeeper
Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance

Richibucto River Association
Sierra Club of/du Canada - Atlantic Canada Chapter
SOS Eau Water Sankwan
Tantramar Environmental Alliance
Washademoak Environmentalists

For additional information, please contact the Canadian Cancer Society New Brunswick, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, or the New Brunswick Lung Association.