

Action Alert
from the
NBEN Pesticides Caucus

Help pass enabling legislation that would give municipal governments in New Brunswick the authority to pass bylaws banning or reducing the use of cosmetic and non-essential pesticides.

Dear concerned citizen,

In November 2007, an amendment to the New Brunswick Municipalities Act will be presented to the Legislative Assembly. This amendment would give municipal governments the authority to pass bylaws banning or reducing the use of cosmetic and non-essential pesticides.

With the current legislation, municipalities who adopt pesticide bylaws are taking the risk of being challenged in court by the pesticide industry for not having the authority to do so. Four New Brunswick municipalities - Caraquet, Shediac, St. Andrews, and Sackville - have enacted bylaws banning non-essential pesticides, and they have yet to be challenged by the pesticide industry.

This amendment to the Municipalities Act is crucial for the complete ban of non-essential pesticides in N.B. Liberal MLA Chris Collins (Moncton-East) is making great efforts to support this bill. In July 2007 his son died at the age of 13 from a type of cancer linked to pesticide exposure.

Although we know that the Minister of Health, Michael Murphy, is in favour of the amendment, it remain unclear how many other MLAs will support the amendment. For it to be adopted, a government bill needs to gain the support from the majority of Cabinet (N.B. Ministers), then the majority of Caucus (Liberal MLAs) and then it must gain the majority from the Legislative Assembly (all New Brunswick MLAs).

We must lobby all cabinet ministers and all MLAs (regardless political affiliation), in favour of the amendment.

Click on the documents below to help you in your lobbying efforts.

[Myth vs. Fact On Pesticide-Free Bylaws](#), The Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa

[The Truth about Pesticides](#), Sierra Club of Canada

[IPM Fact Sheet](#), Canadian Cancer Society - New Brunswick

[Sample Letter to MLA](#), SOS Eau Water Sankwan

[List of Canadian Municipalities with Pesticide Bans](#), Mike Christie, Ottawa, Ontario

[Members of the Legislative Assembly - Contact Info](#)

[NB Cabinet Ministers - Contact Info](#)

What you can do:

- Meet with a MLA (most effective)
 - Schedule a meeting with a MLA, preferably from your constituency. To set up a meeting, call his/her [constituency office](#). You may wish to call the constituency office on the day of the meeting to confirm the appointment.
 - It is a good idea to be prepared, so remember to read all available information beforehand and bring a copy of the documents with you at the meeting.
 - During the meeting, present your arguments and support them with the documents provided. Mention that you have more information available, and you would be happy to leave the documents with him for review.

- Be convincing, but show you understand the opposing arguments.
- Expect the meeting to be delayed, interrupted or cut short.
- Call the constituency office in order to follow-up on the meeting. Ask them if they have questions about the documents or if they have formed an opinion on the issue
- If unable to meet with a MLA, you can
 - Discuss the issue with him/her over the phone.
 - Send him/her [a letter or an email](#) with all the available information concerning the proposed amendment (i.e., cover letter, fact sheets, municipalities list)

For more information, please contact Anne Levesque, SOS Eau Water Sankwan,
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Pesticides Caucus Members:

- ~ Conservation Council of New Brunswick ~
- ~ SOS Eau Water Sankwan ~
- ~ Canadian Cancer Society - New Brunswick ~

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