

*Posted by the Pesticides Phaseout Campaign,
April 26, 2006*

BAN THE NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF PESTICIDES

Write your MP in support of Bill

Dear Friends,

Please email your Federal Member of Parliament asking him/her to request that this private member's Bill to Ban the Non-Essential Use of Pesticides be brought forward to debate in the House of Commons. See the press release below. A private member's Bill will die if not requested to be brought forward to debate. Should you wish to email the Prime Minister and leaders of the opposition their email addresses are:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper email: Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

Bill Graham M.P. email: Graham.B@parl.gc.ca

Jack Layton M.P. email: Layton.J@parl.gc.ca

Gilles Duseppe M.P. email: Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca

Minister of the Environment, Rona Ambrose M.P. email: Ambrose.R@parl.gc.ca

Minister of Health, Tony Clement M.P. email: Clement.T@parl.gc.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2006

BAN THE NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF PESTICIDES BILL INTRODUCED TODAY WOULD CREATE A MORATORIUM

OTTAWA – NDP MP Pat Martin was joined today by Ottawa scientist Meg Sears of the Canadian Coalition for Health and Environment, in calling for Ottawa to ban the non-essential use of pesticides. Mr. Martin is tabling a Private Members Bill today that would amend the Pest Control Products Act to place a moratorium on the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides in homes, gardens and on recreational facilities such as parks and golf courses. The moratorium would be in place until scientific evidence showing that such use is safe has been presented to Parliament and approved by a parliamentary committee. This proposed moratorium would take effect on Earth Day, 2007. “Why should we have to prove that a product is harmful before it is taken off the market?” asked Martin. “This Bill puts the onus on the manufacturers to prove that their product is safe before we’ll allow them to sell it. Until they do, it’s off the shelves.”

It is widely believed chemical pesticides are a leading environmental cause of cancers, neurological disorders and adverse effects on reproductive health. Approximately 35% of all pesticides are used in cosmetic, non-essential applications. Children and pregnant

women are especially vulnerable. Martin's PMB is being given first reading on the same day an important new report is being released, Pesticide Assessment – Protecting Public Health on the Home Turf. This report cites research by Sears and three other medical researchers. They agree that federal legislation should curtail the non-essential use of pesticides nationally and that our current pesticide regulation regime is inadequate. "Our report concludes that cancer, neurological impairment, and reproductive problems are persuasively linked to phenoxy herbicide exposure (2-4-D)." says Dr Meg Sears.

For more information contact: Ian Wayne (613) 992-5316 or (613) 301-2079

Pesticides Phase Out Website: ~~ <http://atlantic.sierraclub.ca/pesticides>