

Ontario Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

Part 10.

15/04/2009

Force of Nature Media Report : The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective.

Force of Nature was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1st, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the **Green Space Industry**, the **environmental movement**, politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States. **Force of Nature** is produced in two parts. First. The **Media Report** itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the **Green Space Industry**.. Second. **Independent Perspective**., which is a running commentary, sometimes also of a more technical in nature.

Force of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. The opinions expressed in these e-newsletters, even though from an independent perspective, may not reflect those of everyone in the **Green Space Industry**, or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. Be warned ! Mr. Gathercole and his team may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters.

William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Guelph, and another pure and applied science degree from McGill University. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the **Green Space Industry**, including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of **environmental terrorism** for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. (i.e. the Town of Hudson.) Although he can be accused of being **anti-environment-movement**, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate for the **Green Space Industry**. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is undeniable. (Hopefully !)

For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for **TURF & Recreation Magazine**, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All pictures contained in **Force of Nature** were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, as either educational tools, industry archives, promotional stills, publicity photos, or press media stock.

Information presented in **Force of Nature** has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental.

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Notable quotations.

The Ontario law is something the David Suzuki Foundation, along with a range of health and environmental organizations, has been pushing for. << >>

But there's more to be done - and the bans that are in place may be threatened. [...] To start, the Ontario law does not apply to golf courses. >>

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Quotes from

the perpetually dissatisfied (sorry)

David Suzuki

March 17th, 2009

David Suzuki : Ontario joins movement to make gardens green

March 17th, 2009

David Suzuki & Faisal Moola

David Suzuki Foundation

Web Site

Retrieved in March 2009



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The discovery by Swiss chemist Paul Mueller in 1939 that **DDT** kills insect “**pests**” was hailed as a breakthrough. Dr. Mueller went on to win a Nobel Prize in 1948 for his work, and DDT became the most widely used pesticide in the world during the 1950s. Years later, scientists learned that DDT is “**biomagnified**” up the food chain, **harming** fish, **birds**, humans, and other life.

Did we learn from that ? The use of chemical pesticides increased by more than 600 per cent in the last half of the 20th century. Ten years into the 21st century, we still pour millions of litres of harmful pesticides onto our food, schoolyards, lawns, and managed forests. Much of that ends up in our air and water –and us. All Canadians carry pesticides in their bodies.

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But this may be changing. We still use a lot of pesticides, usually for reasons less important than killing disease-carrying insects. We spray plenty of toxic chemicals around thinking it will keep lawns and gardens looking pretty. These pesticides are referred to as “*cosmetic pesticides*”. The good news is that Ontario is the latest Canadian province to recognize that risking human and ecological health for the negligible benefits provided by cosmetic pesticides is foolish.

Under Ontario’s **Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act**, more than 250 pesticides will be removed from the province’s store shelves by the end of April. Quebec is the only other province to have banned these pesticides, but Prince Edward Island has announced plans for a ban, New Brunswick is considering one, and more than 100 municipalities, including Vancouver, Halifax, and Brandon, have bans in place.

The Ontario law is something the David Suzuki Foundation, along with a range of health and environmental organizations, has been pushing for. It’s recognition that caring for the environment is also about caring for our health. **But there’s more to be done – and the bans that are in place may be threatened.**



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To start, the Ontario law does not apply to golf courses, and some restrictions will not take effect for another two years.

And the chemical industry isn’t sitting back while governments move to protect their citizens. **Dow AgroSciences**, a division of U.S.-based Dow Chemical, has served notice to the Canadian government that it plans to challenge Quebec’s ban on the herbicide 2,4-D under the **North American Free Trade Agreement**. Although Dow argues that 2,4-D has not been proven unsafe, some research shows that it may pose risks to human immune, reproductive, and endocrine systems and that it may increase the risk of cancer. Governments in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Kuwait have banned 2,4-D because of concerns about its effects on human health and the environment.

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Another problem with pesticides is that they don't discriminate. They may kill some "*pests*" but they often kill beneficial plants and animals as well. So, using pesticides on lawns and gardens is a band-aid solution, as the key to a healthy lawn or garden is to ensure that the soils, plants, and beneficial insects and animals are healthy. Ironically, lawns and gardens that become chemically dependent become more susceptible to pests and disease over time and are more likely to suffer from drought and temperature extremes. Today, even in areas where the cosmetic pesticides aren't banned, most lawn and garden care companies will offer organic options. And many stores have voluntarily pulled harmful pesticides off their shelves.

The bans are a great start, and we hope to see more provinces get on board. But they must also come with enforcement and education. Education programs are the best way to show people how easy it is to have healthy lawns and gardens without using harmful pesticides. These can be combined with programs to show how to have attractive yards using less water.

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The bans also show that governments will put the interests of citizens ahead of industrial interests if people speak up. The public has led the way in getting these unnecessary chemicals off the store shelves and off our lawns. We've seen ample evidence through a contest launched by my foundation, called David Suzuki Digs My Garden. It allows participants to share stories, photos, and tips about pesticide-free gardening. The response has been great. People from every part of Canada have told us how easy and satisfying it is to grow healthy gardens without using harmful chemicals.

It truly is a growing movement, and we can only hope that as it blossoms and blooms, it will lead to even more discussion about the role of chemicals in the environment.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org/.

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Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

The Effect of DDT on Bald Eagles. (Summary.)

And what about the so-called effect of DDT on Bald Eagles ? During the sixteen-year period (1961–1977) representing much of the end of the « *DDT YEARS* », a mere two hundred and sixty-six « *BALD EAGLE* » carcasses were found dead by the « *UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE* ». The biologists who analyzed the dead eagles reported no adverse effects caused by DDT or its metabolites. The « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* » has often given the public the impression that thousands of « *BALD EAGLE* » birds died while DDT was in use. As a matter of fact, early in the Twentieth Century, hundreds of thousands of these birds were destroyed, but not because of DDT.

A whopping one hundred and fifteen thousand were calculatedly slaughtered by the « *STATE OF ALASKA* » between 1917 and 1942. Government-sponsored exterminations seem to have killed more « *BALD EAGLE* » than DDT allegedly did. **Everyone should maintain some perspective on this matter.**

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The Bald Eagle.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald_Eagle)



Pesticide ban is the most health protection in North America

March 17th, 2009



Pembroke Observer

Letter to the Editor



[There is] one misleading claim. You say concern over pesticides is being expressed by "**special interest groups**". In fact, polling shows concern over pesticides is expressed by about 70% of Ontarians. It is also expressed by Ontario's health authorities including the **Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**, the **Ontario College of Family Physicians**, the **Ontario Medical Association** (Section on Pediatrics), and the **Canadian Cancer Society** -- all of which strongly support the new provincial ban. It would just be silly to call Ontario's family doctors, pediatricians, nurses, and health charities "**special interests**". Their only interest is protecting the public.

The special interests are those groups opposing the ban.

Gideon Forman

Executive Director



Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

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Notable quotations.

No other international regulatory body considers 2,4-D to be a human carcinogen. >>

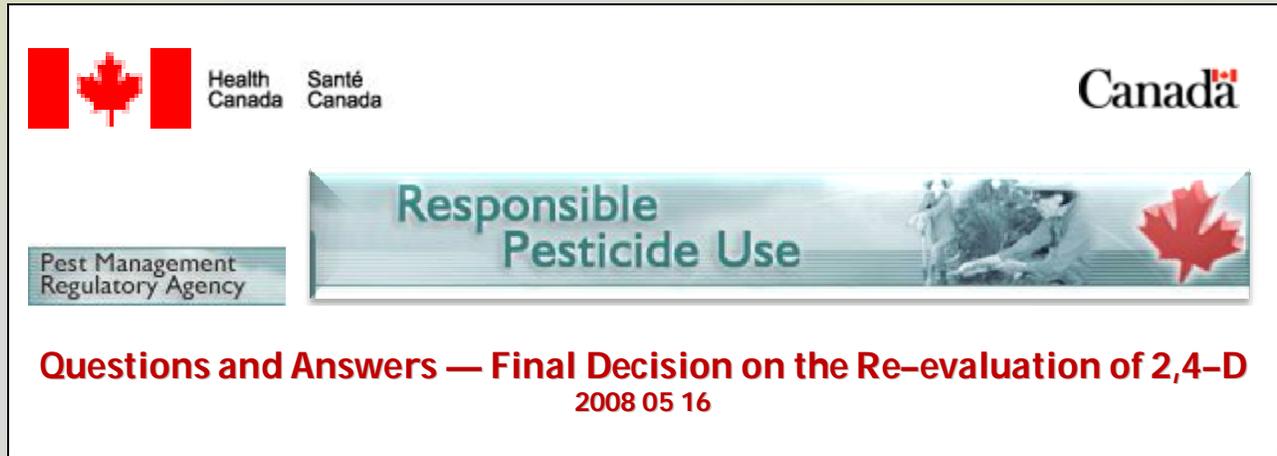
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Health Canada found that 2,4-D does not increase the risk of cancer and can be used safely by homeowners, provided label directions are followed. >>

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Questions and Answers — Final Decision on the Re-evaluation of 2,4-D
2008 05 16

Physician groups say 2,4-D can cause cancer in children. How can Health Canada say it can be used safely ?

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No other international regulatory body considers 2,4-D to be a human carcinogen. Based on all available and relevant data, Health Canada agrees with this position.

When re-evaluating a pesticide, Health Canada has access to the available scientific information on that product including an extensive database of toxicology studies, epidemiology studies, and numerous other scientific reports. No other non-regulatory group or organisation carries out this detailed level of review to determine if a product can be used safely when used according to label directions. Health Canada determines allowable uses, doses and other label instructions for each pesticide product.

Pesticides are regulated by Health Canada under the Pest Control Products Act, and are among the most stringently regulated substances in Canada. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (P.M.R.A.) is the branch of Health Canada that administers the Act on behalf of the Minister of Health. The primary objective of the P.M.R.A. is to prevent unacceptable risks to people and the environment from the use of pesticides.

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Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

Coalition for Pesticide Reform Ontario.

This coalition was created to ensure the passage of the Ontario « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ».

This coalition is actually a **public affairs** shield organization which was created by « *REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO* » (R.N.A.O.) and « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.A.P.E.).

« *COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO* » was set up for the following reasons. —

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- For concealing the views of supposedly moderate professionals, such as physicians and health care workers, in an attempt to mask their extremist views.
- For ensuring that the non-profit tax status of the « *PARENT GROUPS* » is not jeopardized by their activities.
- For giving everyone the impression that the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* » has considerable size and power, when in fact, it does not.
- For giving the public the impression that there is « *GRASS-ROOTS* » support for changes in public policy.
- For protecting the « *PARENT GROUPS* » from legal liability.

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« COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO » includes the following « PARENT GROUPS ». —

- « CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT » (C.A.P.E.).
- « CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION » (C.E.L.A.).
- « CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF EASTERN ONTARIO ». (C.H.E.O.).
- « DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION ».
- « ECOJUSTICE CANADA ».
- « ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE ».
- « ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION » (O.M.A.) — Pediatrics Section.
- « ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION » (O.P.H.A.).
- « ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE » (O.L.A.).
- « PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO » (Formerly « CAMPAIGN FOR PESTICIDE REDUCTION ONTARIO »).
- « PREVENT CANCER NOW ».
- « REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO » (R.N.A.O.).
- « THE LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA » (L.D.A.C.).
- « THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS » (O.C.F.P.).

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In essence, « COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO » consists of, mostly, the « SAME GANG » of health care workers, who conspire to change public policy by inventing, and re-inventing, trade organizations, shield organizations, and advocacy groups. But, in the end, it's all the « SAME GANG » of people, using different names.

Who is the « LEADER » of this « GANG »? « DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION » has definitely taken a leadership role, appearing to act as an unseen « PUPPET MASTER » of the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT ». Suzuki simply pulls « THE STRINGS », and makes the « GANG » do his bidding. With « COALITION FOR PESTICIDE REFORM ONTARIO », Suzuki has the **ultimate** shield organization.



Moreover, « CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY » (C.C.S.) is operated by some of the same people that manage « CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT » (C.A.P.E.).

Finally, « PREVENT CANCER NOW » is a **public affairs** shield for « CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY » (C.C.S.).

Shields within shields, so to speak.

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Historic Document.

Media Release

Health and Environmental Organizations Support Ontario-wide Ban on Cosmetic Pesticides



We support the Ontario government's plan to enact pesticide legislation and call for a law that:

- prohibits the use, sale and retail display of cosmetic/ornamental pesticides for outdoor, non-agricultural use (including pesticide/fertilizer combinations);
- allows exemptions only to protect public health;
- requires publicity of the ban and public education about alternatives to pesticides;
- includes effective mechanisms for enforcement; and
- is passed in 2008 and is phased in and fully implemented within the government's current mandate.



In a world of multiple chemical exposures, we must remove needless risks from lawn and garden pesticides.

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Advertising from [Coalition for Pesticide Reform Ontario](#).

April is National Lawn Care Month

March 14th, 2009

Media Release

Share key facts with your customers about the environmental and economic value of lawn care.

As spring arrives, 30 million acres of turf across the nation is turning green and growing. PLANET observes the importance of lawns and their aesthetic and environmental benefits during National Lawn Care Month each April.

Share these facts with your customers:

- Well cared for lawns can significantly increase your clients' property values.
- A healthy lawn is of utmost importance to our environment. A 50-foot by 50-foot lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four.
- Lawns cool the atmosphere. Eight healthy front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning, which is enough for 16 average homes.
- Grass converts carbon dioxide to oxygen, a process that helps clear the air.
- Dense, healthy grass slows water runoff, removing contaminants and trapping soil. Fresh, filtered water returns to the underground water supply.

Be proactive in April and propose lawn care programs for your clients that ensure both a healthy and beautiful lawn throughout the year.

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Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

The Benefits of a Well-Maintained Lawn and Landscape.



A well-maintained lawn and landscape can be environmentally-friendly and provide substantial ecological and community benefits in the following ways.

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- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a valuable green space in the urban environment.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a cleanser of dust and other air of pollutants.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a contributor in solving so-called climate change.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a cushion that minimizes injuries if someone falls.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a filter for pollutants originating from rain water.

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- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a habitat for thousands of species of birds and other wildlife.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a heat-dissipater for cooling the atmosphere, just like an air conditioner.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as an offsetter of carbon emissions.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a preventer of soil and water run-off.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a recharger of moisture in the atmosphere.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a recreational site for children and adults alike.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a reducer of noise and sun glare.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a regulator of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can act as a stabilizer for preventing soil erosion and flooding.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can be used to reclaim and restore environmentally-damaged sites, such as landfills.
- ✓ A well-maintained lawn and landscape can significantly contribute to property value improvement.

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The Man From F.O.N. says ...



*... you're the activist disease,
and I'm the green space cure.*

Force of Nature Media Report

The following titles are currently available.
(Others will be available in the near future.)

- Alberta Prohibition.
- British Columbia Prohibition.
- Burnaby B.C. Prohibition.
- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.
- David Suzuki Foundation.
- Death and the Environmental Movement.
- Golf and Landscape Trade Industries.
- Kazimiera Jean Cottam.
- Kelowna B.C. Prohibition.
- New Brunswick Prohibition.
- Ontario Prohibition.
- Organic Fertilizers.
- Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals.
- Prince Edward Island Prohibition.
- Quebec Prohibition.
- Richmond B.C. Prohibition.
- Saint Catharines Ontario.
- Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition.
- The Failure of Integrated Pest Management.
- The Wisdom of the Solonians.
- Victoria B.C.
- White Rock B.C. Prohibition.
- Wisconsin Prohibition.

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