

Prince Edward Island Prohibition of Pest Control Products. Part 1.

25/03/2009



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« *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 « *Force of Nature Media Report : The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective* » which reports on the current events (with independent commentary) that affect the future of the « *Green Space Industry* ». • Second. « *Force of Nature : A Report on the Environmental Movement for the Green Space Industry from an Independent Perspective.* », more technical in nature (with commentary).

« *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 and unending 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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<< **C**anadian Cancer Society believes that in light of the potential for harm and the lack of health benefit, pesticide bans should be implemented for residential lawns and gardens, as well as recreational spaces, such as parks and golf courses. >>

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Quote from

Canadian Cancer Society

January 14th, 2008

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New poll reveals Maritimers support ban of cosmetic pesticides

January 14th, 2008

Canadian Cancer Society



Media Release

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, Jan. 14 /CNW/ — A poll recently commissioned by the **Canadian Cancer Society** indicates the majority of Maritime residents support a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides on residential lawns and gardens. "It's clear that many of us are concerned about pesticides and the effect they may have on human health," says Dawn Binns, Executive Director of the **Canadian Cancer Society** in Prince Edward Island. "These polling results show that Maritimers support our call to government for more stringent regulations against exposure to these potentially harmful chemicals." The poll, conducted by Corporate Research Associates Inc. in November 2007, surveyed 1,101 households in New Brunswick, **Prince Edward Island** and Nova Scotia. Of those surveyed, 69 per cent support a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides, and 79 per cent believe pesticides used for lawn and garden maintenance have the potential to pose a health risk to people. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), pesticides contain substances that are known, probable or possible carcinogens. But while scientific evidence linking exposure to pesticides with increased cancer risk is inconclusive, it is suggestive and growing. The **Canadian Cancer Society believes that in light of the potential for harm and the lack of health benefit, pesticide bans should be implemented for residential lawns and gardens, as well as recreational spaces, such as parks and golf courses.** Currently, four communities in New Brunswick have pesticide bans, including Shédiac, Caraquet, Sackville and St.

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Andrew's; in Nova Scotia the Halifax Regional Municipality has issued a ban. "Cosmetic pesticide use is a major concern for Maritimers and we certainly urge our provincial and municipal governments to respond to these concerns," says Binns. "This is a health and safety issue, here in the Maritimes and across the country. "In Prince Edward Island the Legislative Assembly is currently examining the feasibility of an Island-wide ban of cosmetic pesticides through public hearings. The **Canadian Cancer Society** is a national community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is to eradicate cancer and to enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer.

For more information about cancer, visit our website at www.cancer.ca or call our toll-free bilingual Cancer Information Service at 1 888 939-3333.

For further information: on results for each province or to arrange local interviews, please contact :

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No golf course exception.

The *nine* following organizations have publicly stated, in one form or another, that they *do not want any prohibition exceptions* for the « *GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY* ».

- « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.A.P.E.).
- « *CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY* » (C.C.S.).
- « *CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION* » (C.E.L.A.).
- « *DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION* ».
- « *GREEN PARTY OF ONTARIO* ».
- « *NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ONTARIO* » (N.D.P.).
- « *PESTICIDE FREE ONTARIO* » (P.F.O.).
- « *REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO* » (R.N.A.O.).
- « *SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA* ».

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*The P.E.I. government intends to ban the sale
of cosmetic pesticides starting in 2010.*

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Force of Nature Media Report

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P.E.I. banning cosmetic pesticides

March 9th, 2009

CBC News

Islanders will have to revert to non-chemical methods of fighting dandelions.

The P.E.I. government intends to ban the sale of cosmetic pesticides starting in 2010.

Environment Minister Richard Brown told CBC News Friday that regulations are being drawn up, and they will be straightforward.

"A ban is a ban. Those products will not be allowed to be sold on P.E.I.," said Brown.

"We're not putting it in this year, because the owners of all the stores and all the big shopping areas have purchased their inventory, and we're saying we're not going to ban it for this year, but you're on notice for next year."

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Brown said Islanders were very clear about what they wanted, in their presentations to a legislative committee looking into lawn chemicals in 2007. The Island government is working with Ontario and New Brunswick, as well, to come up with common regulations so people aren't driving over the bridge to buy pesticides.

Katherine Dewar of the **P.E.I. Environmental Health Co-operative**, one of the groups that's been pushing for a ban, welcomed the news.

"This is a no-brainer. You don't need cosmetic pesticides. There's no rationale to say that they're needed, because you can have good lawns without cosmetic pesticides," said Dewar.

"If you can take this kind of pollutant out of the air, the water and the soil, it's a very easy thing for people to do. It's just the sensible thing to do."

The new rules will be introduced during the upcoming sitting of the legislature. Agricultural chemicals will not be included in the ban.

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<< **T**he industry that depends on people using chemicals to kill their dandelions, and keep their little patch of the planet's Kentucky Blue perfectly green, blew it. They should have known better. >>

Quote from

Rick MacLean

March 14th, 2009

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N.Y.G.U.I.S. — The Nuke-Your-Grass- Until-It- Surrenders Industry

March 14th, 2009

Rick MacLean

The Charlottetown Guardian



What's in a name ? Getting your way — VIEWPOINT

Pest-killing pesticides.

No. That won't do it.

Domestic pesticides.

That sounds better. 'Domestic' has such a nice ring, don't you think ? It speaks of home and family. Sitting around the kitchen table with an apple pie, fresh from the oven, steam still rising from the crust.

Should have used domestic pesticides.

Yep. **The industry that depends on people using chemicals to kill their dandelions, and keep their little patch of the planet's Kentucky Blue perfectly green, blew it. They should have known better.**

This week, the provincial government announced it will ban cosmetic pesticides starting in **2010**.

"We're not putting it in this year because the owners of all the stores and all the big shopping areas have purchased their inventory," Environment Minister Richard Brown said. "We're not going to ban it for this year, but you're on notice for next year."

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Starting next year, it's dig out the hoe and dig up the crabgrass.

The announcement marks the end of a well-run spin campaign, one that shows grassroots groups are learning the lesson perfected by industry and government decades ago : define the issue and you own it.

Opponents of the nuke-your-grass-until-it-surrenders industry — known as **N.Y.G.U.I.S.**, pronounced noo-gees, who knows why — did a pro job on this one, and they deserve congratulations. Lawn pesticides probably are bad for you. And we don't really need them.

But that's not why they won.

And other groups determined to influence public policy should take notes on how the anti- **N.Y.G.U.I.S.** campaign got its way.

First, you need a cause people can believe in.

No problem in this case. If pesticides can kill plants, animals, fish and fowl, they must be bad for us. Besides, we've all heard about Agent Orange, used to strip the leaves from trees during the Vietnam War. Cancer-causing. And we know about DDT, used to strip the bugs — and birds, it turned out — from plants everywhere. Cancer-causing.

Next, you need a good spokesperson.

Got it covered.

Among those leading the anti- **N.Y.G.U.I.S.** charge here have been the **P.E.I. Environmental Health Co-operative** and the **Canadian Cancer Society** in Prince Edward Island. Lots of credibility there. Who's going to attack a group fighting cancer?

And when someone from such a group does interviews about a survey suggesting the public is ready for a ban, you have the perfect storm : a cause, a credible organization and an outstanding spokesperson.

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Plus, you have numbers. Numbers are crucial because they bring the stamp of science to the issue. And science is pretty tough to argue with, especially with all those numbers. Who knows what they mean, anyway ?

So when the Cancer Society released the results of a poll in January of last year, just as government was pondering the idea of jumping onto the anti-**N.Y.G.U.I.S.** bandwagon, the result was never really in doubt.

"The poll, conducted by Corporate Research Associates Inc. in November 2007, surveyed 1,101 households in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Of those surveyed, 69 per cent support a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides, and 79 per cent believe pesticides used for lawn and garden maintenance have the potential to pose a health risk to people," the society said.

Finally, you need a name to define the issue on your terms.

'Cosmetic pesticide' is perfect. It sounds so, well, vain. Is having a perfect lawn really worth poisoning our planet ? Well ? Is it ?

Umm....well...

Is it ?

No.

The government standing committee that looked into the issue use cosmetic pesticide. The media used it. The public used it. It defined the debate.

Case closed. Mission accomplished.

Rick MacLean is an instructor in the journalism program at Holland College in Charlottetown.

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The rest of the story P.E.I. banning cosmetic pesticides

March 9th, 2009

Stephen Pate, Charlottetown, PEI

NJN Network

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Hats off to Cynthia Dunsford and the new major domo at Environment Minister Richard Brown for announcing a ban on cosmetic pesticides. Well Richard didn't announce it : he leaked it to CBC. Cynthia put a lot of energy into this and ended up with egg on her face when ex-Environment Minister George Webster axed the plan. Leave to our renegade Richard to push it through and rescue one of the dumbest governments in PEI history. Thank you Richard and thank you Cynthia. Now would you kick some butt over there and get seniors wheelchair coverage ?

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< **T**he ban must also apply to P.E.I.'s golf courses. >>

<< **T**here are examples of pesticide-free golf courses. The world's oldest and most renowned golf course, St. Andrews Old Course in Scotland, has not allowed pesticides to touch its grasses for more than 17 years. >> 14 of 20.

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Extend the pesticide ban

March 10th, 2009

The Summerside Journal Pioneer

Letter to the Editor

It's good that P.E.I. may finally get a cosmetic pesticide ban, but **the ban must also apply to P.E.I.'s golf courses.** As a province, P.E.I. has a heavy concentration of golf courses, probably the greatest per capita in the country. Golf courses are everywhere, from Tignish to Souris, and most, if not all, use plenty of pesticides.

A few golf courses are completely within city and municipal boundaries, and are literally within metres of front and backyards where children and their pets play. Even golf courses in rural areas of the province are very close to many homes, waterways, grazing animals and wildlife.

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It is well known that pesticides are applied to golf courses at higher concentrations per acre than almost any other type of land, including farmland. It is also well known that pesticides on golf courses, like pesticides on lawns and fields, contaminate water, land, people and animals. Their use on golf courses serves primarily a cosmetic or an aesthetic purpose.

If P.E.I. wants to improve its image from being a toxic province, the regulations covering the cosmetic pesticide ban must extend to golf courses. The economic argument to allow an exemption is not a good one.

There are examples of pesticide-free golf courses. The world's oldest and most renowned golf course, St. Andrews Old Course in Scotland, has not allowed pesticides to touch its grasses for more than 17 years.

Let's go all the way on banning cosmetic pesticides on P.E.I. Apply the ban to the Island's 26 or more golf courses.

Leo Broderick,
Charlottetown

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Ban based on politics, not science, say pesticide companies

March 10th, 2009

CBC News

Representatives of companies that manufacture lawn chemicals are expressing their displeasure at P.E.I.'s announcement that it is banning cosmetic pesticides.

'People want to protect their homes.' — Shannon Coombs, **Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association**.

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The groups made presentations to the legislative committee that looked into the issue, but were surprised to hear Monday the Island intends to go ahead with a ban in 2010. Shannon Coombs, president of the **Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association**, told CBC News the province should focus on education instead of preventing people from buying the products.

"Taking a ban approach is not the way to go with respect to these products, because they do provide benefits," said Coombs.

"People want to protect their homes from insects, from crab grass and noxious weeds and things like that and they should have the right to do so."

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Not a 'popularity contest'

Environment Minister Richard Brown believes most Islanders agree with the idea of a ban, and that eliminating pesticides used on lawns will help protect the drinking water.

Lorne Hepworth, president of **CropLife** — another national group that represents pesticide manufacturers — said all pesticides are registered by **Health Canada**, and are safe if used properly.

"Leading a province and a country, you know this is not some kind of popularity contest when it comes to ensuring the public safety and ensuring that the environment is safeguarded," said Hepworth.

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"The day that we start abdicating, and delegating and relegating to political whimsy and polling and fear-mongering and uninformed and misinformed public policy, I think it's a sad day for all of us here in Canada, and particularly Prince Edward Island."

Both groups say they will be talking to government about the ban in the coming days to try to convince the province that it isn't the way to go.

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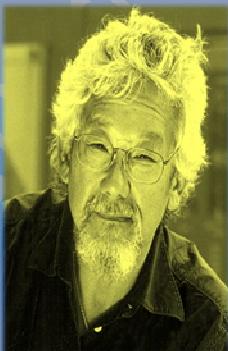
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Weed Out Pesticides !

David Suzuki Foundation

Web Site

Retrieved in March 2009



Keeping unnecessary lawn and garden pesticides off store shelves is the best way to stop their use. That's why the David Suzuki Foundation is working to ban both their sale and use in provinces across Canada.

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With Ontario and Quebec banning unnecessary lawn and garden pesticides, and New Brunswick considering similar action, there is great promise for similar bans across the country.

Provincial Pesticide Bans Work !

Quebec is currently the only province to restrict cosmetic pesticide sales (the Ontario ban will not be in place until 2009). Statistics Canada found that the number of households using pesticides in Quebec decreased by 50% between 1994 and 2005. Nationwide, pesticide use dipped by only 2 percentage points over the same period.

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David Suzuki Foundation

Web Site

Retrieved in March 2009

Click on your province below to tell your Premier that you want strong protections against the health risks of lawn and garden pesticides.



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British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia
Newfoundland	Nunavut	Prince Edward Island	Yukon Territory
Northwest Territory			

Thank you for taking Canada one step closer to being pesticide-free.

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Force of Nature Media Report

The environmental movement in the media from an independent perspective.

The following titles are currently available.

(Or, 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 Solomons.
- Victoria B.C.
- White Rock B.C. Prohibition.
- Wisconsin Prohibition.

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