



We stand for stewardship and innovation

representing Canada's plant science industry

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Re: : What we don't have, The Telegram, Jan 29, 2011

A recent opinion piece in the Telegram suggested a change of leadership in Newfoundland and Labrador could bring about additional regulations for pest control products. What it neglected to mention is that such regulations would be completely contrary to the scientific evidence the current regulatory system is based on. A regulatory system, I might add, which is in place to protect people and the environment.

What it also failed to mention is the acrimonious, divisive and never-ending nature of these bans.

Urban pesticide use is just the start for many of these activists and once they've eliminated the public's right to care for private property, they push for bans on golf courses, rights-of-ways and even on farms. Cash-strapped municipalities and provinces are then forced to continually spend resources debating something which has no scientific merit in the first place.

Before any pesticide can be used in Canada, it must undergo a comprehensive scientific review and risk assessment by Health Canada. This includes a review of over 200 studies related to the potential effects on humans, animals and the environment. Studies are also reviewed to ensure there are no unintended impacts on beneficial insects or plants.

Through this process pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product to ensure they will not harm the environment or the health of current or future generations. Only products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for use.

Not only can pesticides be used safely, they help control threats to human health (such as rats and mosquitoes), they protect private and public properties from insect, weed and disease infestations and they help ensure that Canadians have a safe and affordable supply of food.

The fact of the matter is residents of Newfoundland and Labrador need tools in order to manage pests and when bans, like the one Saltman is suggesting, are in place, people are unable to use the very tools that Health Canada has approved for that use.

Canada's plant science industry welcomes questions about our products and looks forward to future opportunities to set the record straight about the safety of our products and our industry's commitment to people, public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lorne Hepworth
President, CropLife Canada - *representing the plant science industry*

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