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### Re: Group questions province's use of herbicide, the Compass, August 7, 2012

It's ironic that the Newfoundland and Labrador Ministry of the Environment is quoted in a recent article in the Compass as saying: "The Provincial Government accepts that the federal registration process ensures that such products can be used without causing undue harm to people or the environment," yet they implemented a ban on some of these products in the province.

Health Canada has said for years exactly what the province released – that these products can be safely used. In fact, the five lawn pesticides banned by Newfoundland and Labrador have all been recently reassessed by Health Canada using the most modern scientific information and the conclusion was that these products do not pose undue risks to humans or the environment when used properly.

In fact, readers should know that pesticides are one of the most stringently regulated products in Canada and only those products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for sale and use.

The reality is that it simply isn't logical for the province to ban these products from homeowners who rely on them to control pest infestations on their personal property while at the same time allowing its own staff to use them to control vegetation along roadways. What would be logical is for the province to recognize Health Canada's safety assessment that has proven these products can be safely used.

The claims made by Dr. Ian Simpson in the article are yet another attempt to scare residents into thinking they're better off without having access to pesticides. In fact, these are valuable tools whose uses include protecting energy corridors, keeping swimming pools and drinking water safe and providing us with a safe and abundant food supply.

The evidence is clear – pesticides can be safely used and Canadians should feel comfortable if they choose to use them.

Sincerely,

Lorne Hepworth  
President, CropLife Canada – representing the plant science industry

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