



Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

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As Gov't Prepares Regs, Health and Enviro Groups want End to Spraying

7 in 10 Ontarians Urge Golf Pesticide Phase-Out

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TORONTO—As the government prepares to release regulations under its new pesticide act, a poll has discovered most Ontarians want to end the use of pesticides on golf courses.

The poll -- the first to survey citizens on this issue since the government passed legislation in June -- found 68% of respondents support a golf pesticide phase-out while just 26% believe the spraying should be allowed. Among women, support for a phase-out rises to 76%. Among young people (18-34) support is at 80%. Among those intending to vote Liberal, support is 69%; among Conservatives it is 61%, and among New Democrats it is 70%.

“The government will soon be inviting public comment on its pesticide regulations,” said Gideon Forman, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. “We hope Queen’s Park listens to the majority of Ontarians and includes a golf-pesticide phase-out.”

Golf course pesticides are also opposed by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ontario College of Family Physicians, and the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario.

“The province’s doctors, nurses, and environmental experts agree with the people of Ontario: Chemicals that threaten human health, aquatic animals, and drinking water have no place on our golf courses,” said Jan Kasperski, CEO of the Ontario College of Family Physicians.

“We urge Queen’s Park to listen to the majority of Ontarians and include a golf-pesticide phase-out,” said Wendy Fucile, President of the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario.

“There are pesticide-free golf courses operating elsewhere,” said Lisa Gue of the David Suzuki Foundation. “Why shouldn’t Ontario golf courses join these industry leaders?”

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