

LETTERS

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Last updated at 11:41 PM on 26/06/09

Groups support pesticide ban 

TORONTO, ONT.
GIDEON FORMAN
 The Western Star

Re: "Pesticide ban unnecessary, says association president" (June 23).

There's a great deal of science showing people exposed to pesticides are at increased risk for serious illness.

One excellent study appeared in the prestigious journal, Paediatrics and Child Health, published by the Canadian Paediatric Society in April, 2006.

The scientists were looking at the chemical 2,4-D, the most common herbicide used to kill weeds on lawns. Their conclusion: "2,4-D can be persuasively linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems."

It's precisely because of these dangers that Newfoundland and Labrador's most respected health authorities — including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Lung Association, the Registered Nurses Association, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association — support a ban on all pesticides whose only purpose is changing a lawn or garden's appearance.

Gideon Forman,
 executive director, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Toronto, Ont.

27/06/09



Comments:

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Judie from NL writes: Be aware of Lorne Hepworth

Hepworth's name can be found virtually anywhere there is an opinion on pesticide issues in Canada. Lorne Hepworth is notorious for grossly misrepresenting the federal pesticide registration process. Why do he care about Newfoundlander's and Labradorian's? He Don't.

President of CropLife Canada, a trade association representing the large multinational companies that manufacture pesticides, Hepworth has a bias opinion strictly based on putting dollars in chemical companies pockets.

So who will you believe? Our many local medical doctors and our health associations who care about our health? Or the lone cry from Lorne Hepworth, an industry letter writer and pesticide promoter from Saskatchewan?

I know who I'll believe... Thank you for this follow up Mr. Foreman.

Posted 27/06/2009 at 10:43 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

DB from NL writes: While I can't understand why anyone would waste money on pesticides for cosmetic use I always have to laugh at how scientists (or people who like to use science) like to lead us to conclusions. The line 'There's a great deal of science showing people exposed to pesticides are at increased risk for serious illness.' For some reasons scientists will rarely say what the original risk level was or what the increase may be. This includes the article in the Paediatrics and Child Health mentioned above. For example, if you had a 1 in a million chance before, an 'increased risk' could be 1 in 999,000. Also the line, '...can be persuasively linked to ...'. The strength of the link can be mathematically measured but there's no mention above of how strong that link is. I would prefer to see some facts rather than people's interpretation of the facts. In any case, I will continue mowing and hand weeding because it saves me money.

Posted 28/06/2009 at 11:27 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

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