

AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RESPONSE TO « *DOCTORS FAVOR LAWN PESTICIDE BANS* »

ENEWS PARK FOREST

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

Both Warren Bell and Gideon Forman are TOTALLY INACCURATE.

Here are some facts concerning pest control products, as well as facts pertaining to Bell-Forman ALLEGATIONS.

### **Doctors Favouring Prohibition**

To begin with, the title of the Bell-Forman article, « *Doctors Favor Lawn Pesticide Bans* » implies that MOST doctors are in favour of PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Urban Landscape.

This is NOT TRUE.

The VAST MAJORITY members of their organization, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment ( CAPE ), ARE NOT EVEN PHYSICIANS.

In fact, CAPE represents an INFINITESIMALLY SMALL number of doctors — LESS THAN 4 PER CENT of all doctors in Canada.

### **Water Quality**

The PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Province of Ontario DID NOT improve water quality in streams and rivers.

ALMOST UNDETECTABLE LEVELS of pest control products were found in Ontario streams EVEN BEFORE PROHIBITION.

Bell and Forman ALLEGE that the PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Urban Landscape somehow leads to lower concentrations of herbicide in stream water.

This is WRONG !

This allegation is FALSE, MISLEADING, and CONTRADICTS OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF RESEARCH.

It is common knowledge within the LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY that pest control products and fertilizers used for the maintenance of turfgrass areas ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS SERIOUS CONTAMINANTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Researchers have shown that A HEALTHY, DENSE, AND PROPERLY-MAINTAINED TURFGRASS COVER will help RETAIN pest control products and fertilizers, acting like a GIANT SPONGE.

The leaves, the thatch, and the roots, as well as the soil medium, all interact to intercept most pest control product and fertilizer inputs.

The overall fate of pest control products and fertilizers used in the turfgrass environment has been estimated in DOZENS OF RESEARCH REPORTS examining RUN-OFF and LEACHING.

The PROHIBITION of pest control products in the Urban Landscape will NOT improve the water quality of our streams and rivers.

## **Consequences of Prohibition**

Bell and Forman are GREATLY MISTAKEN by saying that the Ontario PROHIBITION of pest control products was somehow well-received by the Professional Lawn Care Industry.

PROHIBITION has INFLICTED HORRENDOUS CARNAGE in jurisdictions such as Halifax, Quebec, and Ontario.

PROHIBITION led to HARDSHIP AND LOSSES for the Professional Lawn Care businesses because there were NO valid economical alternatives to replace the prohibited products.

In Halifax Regional Municipality, customers DISINTEGRATED BY OVER 50 PER CENT, and REVENUES PLUMMETED BY 40 PER CENT.

The number of businesses in Halifax DID NOT GROW WHATSOEVER !

In the Province of Quebec, OVER 60 PER CENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE INDUSTRY WAS ANNIHILATED.

HUNDREDS OF QUEBEC BUSINESSES DISAPPEARED INTO TOTAL OBLIVION.

In the Province of Ontario, the PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE INDUSTRY LOST OVER 500,000,000 DOLLARS.

Ontario Lawn Care businesses were forced to TERMINATE many or most of their employees — UP TO 12,500 BECAME UNEMPLOYED.

PROHIBITION led to LOSS OF REVENUES, BUSINESS FAILURES, BANKRUPTCY, and UNEMPLOYMENT.

In Ontario, ONE-COMPANY-PER-WEEK DISAPPEARS INTO TOTAL OBLIVION.

PROHIBITION IS BAD FOR BUSINESS.

PROHIBITION DESTROYED THE MODERN PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE INDUSTRY in Halifax, Quebec, and Ontario.

## **The Environmental Factor**

Bell and Forman are also INCORRECT about the growth of this SMALL BUSINESS.

The story of The Environmental Factor is NOT a good example of BUSINESS GROWTH under the PROHIBITION of pest control products.

Despite views to the contrary, The Environmental Factor, a supplier of Green Alternatives to pest control products, did NOT have a SUSTAINED 400 per cent increase in sales.

Its so-called growth was ARTIFICIAL, and NOT INFLUENCED BY LEGITIMATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

In fact, ITS SO-CALLED GROWTH WAS MORE INFLUENCED BY GOVERNMENT GRANTS — and NOT LEGITIMATE BUSINESS GROWTH !

The Environmental Factor is NOT a good example of BUSINESS GROWTH under PROHIBITION.

## **Physicians Literature Review**

In 2004, Ontario College of Family Physicians ( OCFP ) CONCOCTED ALLEGATIONS that pest control products are somehow associated with certain types of cancer.

This review has since been DEBUNKED.

This OCFP–review has absolutely NO CREDIBILITY in the legitimate scientific community, and has been REFUTED and DISCREDITED.

Internationally, this review has been viewed as • inadequately addressing the issues • inconsistent • over–interpreting studies • superficial in its approach • unclear • weak quality.

This review has absolutely NO CREDIBILITY since none of its authors and reviewers has ANY recognized expertise, training or background in matters concerning pest control products

Moreover, among the authors and reviewers of the OCFP–review, there are doctors who were found guilty of professional mis–conduct over sexual activities, doctors whose license was suspended, and doctors who deny having reviewed the document.

## **Needlessly Alarmist**

These concerns originating from organizations like Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and Ontario College of Family Physicians are NEEDLESSLY ALARMIST with their ALLEGATIONS that pest control products MAY be the cause of certain types of cancer, ostensibly to increase donations to their organizations.

If they have some form of « *secret evidence* » to back up their ALLEGATIONS, they have yet to present substantiated findings to Health Canada.

Instead of increasing the public’s awareness of the largest known preventable causes of cancer, such as smoking and diet, OCFP and CAPE prefer SCAMMING, DECEIVING, and ALARMING the public into believing there is some IMAGINARY DANGER with conventional pest control products.

In fact, NO cause–and–effect relationship between pest control products and cancer has been established scientifically.

Moreover, NOT A SINGLE PERSON within OCFP or CAPE has ANY recognized expertise, training or background in matters concerning pest control products.

## **The Fraser Institute**

According to The Fraser Institute, the highly-rated Think-Tank of TRUE EXPERTS, PROHIBITIONS on the use of pest control product are ILL-CONCEIVED and DO NOT accurately reflect the current state of scientific knowledge.

Also according to The Fraser Institute, HASTY PROHIBITIONS of pest control products SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED until the underlying science is conclusive and until a comprehensive analysis of the potential side-effects resulting from the PROHIBITION has been undertaken.

Incredibly, some municipalities and provinces ARBITRARILY PROHIBIT pest control products that are, in fact, HEALTH-CANADA-APPROVED, FEDERALLY-LEGAL, and SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE.

For more information, please go to the Pesticide Truths web-site ...

It is a LIBRARY OF REPORTS that contains History, Links, News, Audios, and Videos with ALL Force Of Nature and Pesticide Truths reports, and information right-off-the-press, in Black & White Documents

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National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry ( NORAHG )  
Montreal, Quebec

NORAHG is an INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT organization.