



William H. Gathercole <whg007@gmail.com>

Lawncare Companies to work with activists to support banning pesticides on Golf Courses Update March 1, 2010

1 message

info <info@mrepcommunications.com>
To: jplowes@mrepcommunications.com

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Good Afternoon,

Recent chatter on Activist's websites has indicated that they have picked up support from lawncare companies that have benefited from the provincial pesticide ban in Ontario. There has been some suggestion that the support is coming from the Ontario Weedman franchises but not from Weedman outside of Ontario. This seems to contradict the stand Weedman has taken in the US.

Under attack: the Canadian lawn care industry continues an uphill battle against pesticide regulation.

These are not just the organic lawncare companies; with financial support of the "organic suppliers" they are expected to take a run at the golfing industry starting with their driving ranges. They see the driving ranges as a way to get on the courses with their products. One blog (the entry has now been removed) suggested that "doctors enter charity golf tournaments and complain of symptoms related to exposure to chemical poisonings" to create some pressure.

Early stage concessions by the golf industry could spell disaster. If the activists co-op the golf membership like the lawncare customers, the activists will succeed and start moving forward in other provinces. Mr. Lowes stated this morning "it's time for the industry to get their head out of their "bunker" (edited)".

Please keep in mind who wrote the Canadian Human Rights Commission Report on "The

Medical Perspective on Environmental Sensitivities" By: Margaret E. Sears (M.Eng., Ph.D.)
May 2007

http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/pdf/envsensitivity_en.pdf

Registered Nurses Associations of Ontario are calling for the "phase out the exemption of golf courses from the pesticide ban in the *Cosmetic Pesticides Act*."

[RNAO_Executive_Summary_REV2.pdf page 10](#)

In an interesting development; two individuals that were to be called as witnesses, have been shown the door by the provincial government.

[Coyle: Power grab? Premier likes to call it 'change' - thestar.com](#) [CTV Ottawa- Queen's Park watchdogs won't have terms extended](#)

We are stilling planning to call them to the stand.

Recent documents forwarded to the crown were trying to show the link between the different NGO's on the issue. It was nice of the David Suzuki Foundation to provide some updated information and confirm some of the links.

[Pesticides and your health - a family physician's perspective | Docs Talk | David Suzuki Foundation](#)

Mr. Lowes will be speaking in Winnipeg to members of the provincial and local governments on March 17th and then in Montréal on March 18th to speak to members of the industry. Mr. Lowes is looking forward on reporting on his "special project" surrounding the "honorary Canadian observer on the US Pesticide Working Group".

<http://www.safelawns.org/blog/index.php/2010/01/scare-tactic-green-industry-attempts-witch-hunt-lawsuit/>

<http://www.safelawns.org/blog/index.php/2010/02/why-ban-lawn-pesticides-let-us-count-the-reasons/>

Also of note the activists continue to think Mr. Gathercole from the "Force of Nature" is Mr. Lowes. Mr Lowes reads the "Force of Nature" daily and appreciates the support it has given the industry across the country. Although Mr. Lowes is required to use a different tone in front of a judge, and bite his tongue more often, Mr. Lowes stated "I think Bill has a bigger mailing list then I do and he is definitely more artistic in his emails".

In an unrelated matter a recent story in the "Ontario Farmer" on February 23, referred to or implied that the "pesticide industry" has lost "over \$400 million". This may have caused some confusion as Mr. Lowes is not representing the "industry" nor is he supported by the "industry". The lost has been incurred by the professional applicators that have been defending the products made by the "industry" and are the ones who have been funding the research into the matter. CropLife Canada defends the interests of the "industry" that manufactures the products that were used by the professional applicators prior to the provincial ban in Ontario. They are taking a different approach on the issue. Mr. Lowes is sorry about any confusion this may have caused.

M-REP is retaining a firm to handle the filing of an injunction against Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act and Regulations by April 15th, provided there is funding to pay the lawyers for the action. If the filing fails, it will be refilled again after the summons issued on the criminal charges is served. This will be the last effort ahead of the civil litigation against the activists groups and the government of Ontario. Those interested in supporting the effort should contact M-REP before March 15th.

M-REP Communications

info@mrepcommunications.com

www.mrepcommunications.com

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