

Ted Chudleigh

Halton MPP

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CHUDLEIGH TAKES MORE RESPONSIBLE APPROACH ON PESTICIDE USE

Tomorrow, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh will introduce his Private Members Bill, *Pesticides Amendment Act (Licence for Cosmetic Purposes), 2012*, which will amend the Liberal ban on pesticides.

The Bill will amend the *Pesticides Act* by allowing individuals to hire a licenced operator to apply pesticides to their lawns and gardens to kill noxious weeds and pests.

“There are serious flaws with the Liberal ban on pesticide use,” said Chudleigh. “Instead of ensuring pesticides are properly applied, the ban risks creating an unmonitored black market which is a greater threat to our environment and health because of the unprofessional and improper application of pesticides.”

“The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada undertakes rigorous testing before approving a pesticide for use in Canada,” explained Chudleigh. “The system I am proposing accepts the science behind these tests and uses the existing licencing framework under the *Pesticides Act* to ensure that pesticides are applied properly and are not a threat to our health or environment.”

While banning the use of pesticides for non-essential purposes, the *Pesticides Act* exempts golf courses, the agriculture industry and the forestry industry from the ban. The existing exemptions will not be affected by Chudleigh’s Bill.

“The Liberals started with a sound bite and tried to build a policy around it,” said Chudleigh. “A pesticide ban may sound nice and deliver a good photo-op but dictating can have the opposite and more harmful effect than one intends. I’m afraid that this is the case with the Liberal pesticide ban. My Bill takes the more responsible and safer approach to pesticides approved by Health Canada.”

“Those who choose not to use pesticides are free to make that choice. However, those who wish to use pesticides, perhaps for hay fever or other allergies, will now be able to do so in a safe and responsible manner that does not negatively affect our environment or health,” added Chudleigh.

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