

- [Home](#)
- Contact us at (416) 962-5009

[Environmental Law and Litigation](#)

News and analysis (not advice) by a top Ontario environmental lawyer



Manitoba to join most other provinces with cosmetic pesticide ban

by Dianne Saxe on July 3, 2013



Hello there! If you are new here, you might want to [subscribe to the RSS feed](#) for updates on this topic.



Powered by WP Greet Box WordPress Plugin

[Manitoba has announced](#) that it will join most other provinces and 170 Canadian municipalities in banning most synthetic chemical lawn pesticides with legislation this fall. The ban follows three notable warnings this year about the risk of synthetic chemical pesticides.

5

[Tweet](#)

For example, a [technical report](#) for the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) strongly recommended that “Children’s exposures to pesticides should be limited as much as possible.” The Academy then adopted a [formal policy calling for increased regulation of pesticides](#). They note that “epidemiologic evidence demonstrates associations between early life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioural problems.”

Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh announced the ban, with the support of Dr. Elise Weiss, deputy chief provincial health officer. “From a risk versus benefit perspective, the health benefits of reducing unnecessary use of cosmetic pesticides outweigh the risks,” she said. “It is prudent to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to pregnant women and children.” Some children’s health groups also [support the ban](#), despite opposition from the lawn care industry.

Most provinces already have restrictions on the sale or use of cosmetic pesticides:

- Quebec (2003) • Ontario (2008)
- Alberta (2008) • New Brunswick (2009)
- Prince Edward Island (2009) • Nova Scotia (2010)
- Newfoundland and Labrador (2012)

British Columbia is currently considering restricting cosmetic pesticides province-wide.

The Manitoba legislation will allow only federally approved bio-pesticides for sale and use on lawns, driveways, sidewalks and patios as well as school grounds, playing fields and playgrounds used predominantly by children and on health-care institution and child-care centre grounds. The legislation would become effective in December 2014 with a one-year grace period for homeowners and would exempt agricultural lands and gardens, golf courses, sod farms, and addressing high-risk noxious weeds and poisonous or invasive species. (Exemptions for sod farms mean that purchases of sod may come with an unexpected dose of pesticides.)



The minister said the four points of the provincial strategy to reduce pesticide exposure will be informed by further consultation and will include:

1. strengthened noxious weed management to protect agricultural lands for production,
2. a strict integrated pest management program for all government pesticide applications beginning December 2013,
3. consumer and applicator awareness about effective lawn bio-pesticides and organic practices, and
4. consultation with the education and child-care centre sectors to significantly reduce indoor pesticide exposure.

The minister said the proposed legislation would be phased in to allow homeowners to become familiar with replacement products and practices, and to allow retailers and the lawn care sector to adapt. He plans to consult with the lawn-care industry and other stakeholders on the detailed regulations, including which insecticides would be included.

The consultation document is available [online](#). Federal government information on pesticides is available at www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/environment-environnement/pesticides/index-eng.php.

The Academy of Pediatric's Recommendations to Government

1. "Marketing: ensure that pesticide products as marketed are not attractive to children.
2. Labeling: include chemical ingredient identity on the label and/or the manufacturer's Web site for all product constituents, including inert ingredients, carriers, and solvents. Include a label section specific to "Risks to children," which informs users whether there is evidence that the active or inert ingredients have any known chronic or developmental health concerns for children. Enforce labeling practices that ensure users have adequate information on product contents, acute and chronic toxicity potential, and emergency information. Consider printing or making available labels in Spanish in addition to English.
3. Exposure reduction: **set goal to reduce exposure overall**. Promote application methods and practices that minimize children's exposure, such as using bait stations and gels, advising against overuse of pediculicides. Promote education regarding proper storage of product.
4. Reporting: make pesticide-related suspected poisoning universally reportable and support a systematic central repository of such incidents to optimize national surveillance.
5. Exportation: aid in identification of least toxic alternatives to pesticide use internationally, and unless safer alternatives are not available or are impossible to implement, ban export of products that are banned or restricted for toxicity concerns in the United States.
6. Safety: continue to evaluate pesticide safety. **Enforce community right-to-know procedures when pesticide spraying occurs in public areas**. Develop, strengthen, and enforce standards of removal of concerning products for home or child product use. Require development of a human biomarker, such as a urinary or blood measure, that can be used to identify exposure and/or early health implications with new pesticide chemical registration or reregistration of existing products. Developmental toxicity, including endocrine disruption, should be a priority when evaluating new chemicals for licensing or reregistration of existing products.
7. Advance less toxic pesticide alternatives: **increase economic incentives for growers who adopt IPM**, including less toxic pesticides. Support research to expand and improve IPM in agriculture and nonagricultural pest control.
8. Research: support toxicologic and epidemiologic research to better identify and understand health risks associated with children's exposure to pesticides. Consider supporting another national study of pesticide use in the home and garden setting of US households as a targeted initiative or through cooperation with existing research opportunities (eg, National Children's Study, NHANES).
9. Health provider education and support: support educational efforts to increase the capacity of pediatric health care providers to diagnose and manage acute pesticide poisoning and reduce pesticide exposure and potential chronic pesticide effects in children. Provide support to systems such as Poison Control Centers to provide timely, expert advice on exposures. Require the development of diagnostic tests to assist providers with diagnosing (and ruling out) pesticide poisoning."



Share this:



Tagged as: [Bio Pesticide](#), [Chemical Pesticide](#), [children](#), [environment](#), [environmental effects of pesticides](#), [environmental health](#), [Environmental Links](#), [Health and environment](#), [Insecticides](#), [Integrated Pest Management](#), [Lawn Pesticides](#), [Medical Evidence](#), [pest control](#), [pesticide](#), [pesticide application](#), [Pesticide Chemicals](#), [Pesticide Exposure](#), [Pesticide Poisoning](#), [Pesticide Product](#), [Pesticide Safety](#), [Pesticides](#)



Add a Facebook Comment





Add a comment...

 Post to Facebook

Posting as Norah G Fon (Change)

Comment**Norah G Fon**

At a news conference on June 28th, 2013, Manitoba's government imposed arbitrary prohibition against conventional pest control products used in the urban landscape. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6RM> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6Rj> Manitoba's anti-pesticide minister Mackintosh and his buddies deceived the public by alleging that this decision was done under the pretext of protecting children. Health Canada's assessments of pest control products do consider children. Health Canada does consider children's physiology, behaviours, and habits while playing on treated grass, and has concluded that pest control products cause no harm and are no threat to children. In fact, there are no valid reports of pest control product problems with children. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-2ha> Manitoba's prohibition was arbitrarily imposed in defiance of the fact that pest control products are Health-Canada-approved, federally-legal, scientifically-safe, practically-non-toxic, and cause no harm. Sadly, Mackintosh acts as a mere sales representative for bogus and ineffective green alternative pesticides like Fiesta herbicide. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-1jq> If forced to rely on green alternatives like Fiesta, Manitobans will lose their green spaces. In fact, the vast majority of users overwhelmingly condemn Fiesta, hence, the major reason for the dooming of the professional lawn care industry that entirely depended upon its success. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6ej> Manitoba's prohibition was arbitrarily imposed in defiance of the fact that, elsewhere, businesses were destroyed because of prohibition. Sadly, in jurisdictions outside of Manitoba, prohibition inflicted catastrophic carnage against businesses operating in the professional lawn care industry. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-43b> Because of anti-pesticide prohibition, provinces like Ontario now have a trail of economic destruction with hundreds of small businesses destroyed and thousands of people out of work. Because of Ontario's 2009 provincial prohibition, businesses operating in the professional lawn care industry lost over 500,000,000 dollars, with up to 12,500 unemployed. In Ontario, one-business-per-week disappears into total oblivion, and, by 2012, half the businesses closed their doors. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-238> The destruction of the professional lawn care industry was extensive because there were no valid economical alternatives to replace the prohibited products, including Fiesta herbicide. Consequently, businesses operating in the professional lawn care industry were incapable of providing adequate weed and insect control, and were unable to keep their customers satisfied. Manitoba's prohibition was arbitrarily imposed in defiance of the fact that its green spaces will become dangerous and pest infested garbage dumps. Without conventional pest control products in other jurisdictions, green spaces have become pest-infested dangerous garbage dumps. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-4z3> Manitoba's prohibition was arbitrarily imposed in defiance of the fact that a petition consisting of more than 8,000 postcards stating that no one in Manitoba wants to live in #@!% pest-infested garbage dumps, the same fate being suffered by Ontario. In Ontario, 80 per cent of residents originally supported prohibition when it was brought forward in 2009. Because of Ontario's garbage dump green spaces, support by residents for prohibition has now been cut almost 50 per cent — to 49 per cent. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6jk> It was/is impossible for homeowners or professionals to keep their properties beautiful by using so-called organic pesticide-free maintenance practices. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-3yl> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-445> Without conventional pest control products, playing surfaces became thin and yellow, and over-run with weeds and infested with insects, resulting in the dismal destruction of safe turf playing surfaces. Who wants to live in #@!% pest-infested garbage dumps just because a small group of non-expert activists who interfere in partisan politics and public policy? In fact, it is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy when they have almost unlimited resources and millions of dollars available through Canadian Cancer Society and government grants. It is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy when they control the government through the New Democratic Party. It is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy when they operate with charity organizations, and does not pay a single penny in taxes. It is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy since they lie, cheat, and mis-inform about pest control products. It is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy when they have direct vested interests in green alternative pesticides like Fiesta herbicide. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-1jq> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-41t> It is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy when they so easily deceive the public and government officials into believing they are some kind of experts, when, in fact, their backgrounds are uneducated, and even include mere roles as stars of eco-pornography films. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-29l> It is easy for anti-pesticide activists to interfere in partisan politics and public policy when they are so highly motivated in destroying businesses. Anti-pesticide activists will not interfere forever since all of their subversive work will eventually be rescinded, which has occurred in dozens of jurisdictions across North America. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-1jo> The government of Manitoba imposed prohibition without any justification, and with depraved indifference for the carnage it will inflict. No one can afford this #@!% ban nonsense. WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-2rr>.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · 35 seconds ago



Leave a Comment

Name *

E-mail *

Website

cannot *liesfe*

Type the text

[Privacy & Terms](#)

reCAPTCHA

Submit

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

Previous post: [West Virginia gets serious about liability barriers to brownfield revitalization](#)

Next post: [Fracking increases gas in domestic wells, and carbon footprint of natural gas](#)



• Pages

- [About Us / Contact Us](#)
 - [Achievements](#)
 - [Meet Dianne](#)
 - [Our Team: More Great Environmental Lawyers](#)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Website/ Blog Terms of Use and Disclaimer](#)
 - [What Do We Do?](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Canadian environmental law: Quick Intro](#)
 - [50+ years of Environmental Law](#)
 - [Reporting](#)
- [Contaminated Sites: 10 Things You Need to Know](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Index](#)
- [Site Map](#)



- [Links](#)

- [What does “Green” mean?](#)
- [When the Inspector Comes](#)
- [Wind energy](#)

- **Categories**

- [Air pollution](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Contaminated Sites](#)
- [Environmental Enforcement](#)
- [Environmental Laws](#)
- [Environmental litigation](#)
- [Green Energy](#)
- [Health and environment](#)
- [News about our firm](#)
- [Pesticides](#)
- [Planning / environmental assessment](#)
- [Protected Places](#)
- [Species at risk](#)
- [Spills](#)
- [Toxics and toxic torts](#)
- [Waste](#)
- [Water](#)

- **Dianne Saxe**



- **Search our site**

Google™ Custom Search Search

powered by



- Environmental Law - Toronto

- **My Account**

- [Register](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)





-
-

[Subscribe](#)

Mail To: admin@envirolaw.com

Get smart with the [Thesis WordPress Theme](#) from DIYthemes.

[WordPress Admin](#)

☺

