



Why is Quebec waiting to ban bee-killing pesticides?

36,000 Quebecers call on the Quebec government to ban neonicotinoid pesticides now

Montreal - June 18, 2015 (Investorideas.com newswire) Équiterre and the David Suzuki Foundation today presented the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight against Climate Change with letters from 36,000 Quebecers calling on him to ban the sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics). In the wake of the Ontario government's adoption of a regulation aimed at reducing the number of acres planted with neonic-treated corn and soybean seeds by 80% by 2017, environmental groups are demanding that Quebec also restrict the use of these pesticides, which are hazardous to the environment and potentially to human health.

"The evidence is well established with regard to the negative impact of neonics on bee health. Given that 70% of our crops and 35% of our food production depend on the work of pollinating insects such as bees, this is very worrying," says Madeleine Chagnon, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Université du Québec à Montréal and co-author of the largest review so far of scientific literature on the environmental impact of neonics, which was recently published by the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides, an international group of 50 independent researchers.

"Cases of neonic poisoning were found in my apiaries during the planting season in 2014. This situation concerns me and we need to act quickly to stop these losses," says Alexander Gardner of Miel Gardner, located in St-Norbert-d'Arthabaska.

****Voluntary approach is not enough****

For nearly two years, the Quebec government has opted for a voluntary approach to this issue, inviting the farming community to use neonic-treated seeds in a reasoned way and asking seed merchants in Quebec to increase their offer of seeds that have not been treated with these pesticides. However, "getting seeds that haven't been treated with neonics is very difficult," says Heidi Asnong, a producer of field conventional crops (corn and soybeans) in Montérégie, who has chosen not to use neonic-treated seeds. "I had to be very persistent to do so," she says.

"It's obvious that the voluntary measures proposed by the Quebec government for the past two years are clearly insufficient: a regulatory approach is needed. Europe and Ontario have understood this: what are we in Quebec waiting for?" says Sidney Ribaux, Executive Director of Équiterre.

Bees and other non-targeted species may not be the only victims. Exposure to neonics through food and water raises public health concerns and the European Food Safety Authority considers that some neonics may also harm the development of the human nervous system.

According to a leaked Pest Management Regulatory Agency analysis, neonics seed treatments contribute little to corn and soybean production in Canada -- 3.6 per cent in the case of corn and 0.4 per cent in the case of soybeans. "Considering the risks to health and our environment, the widespread use of these toxic pesticides cannot be justified, especially given their limited value in agricultural production," says Lisa Gue, senior researcher and analyst with the David Suzuki Foundation.

Used for just about a decade, neonics have become the most widely used class of insecticide in the world, claiming 40 per cent of the global market. In Quebec, almost all grain corn and between 35 to 50 per cent of soybean seeds are treated with neonics -- affecting some 550,000 hectares of crops every year.

For more information:

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NORAHG OPPOSES THE RECKLESS ONTARIO PROPOSAL THAT WILL INEVITABLY DESTROY THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ! — FANATICAL & ARBITRARY PROHIBITION MUST BE STOPPED, FOREVER !

Lisa Gue is WRONG ! Gue SHOULD LEAVE SCIENCE TO THE REAL EXPERTS. She is a mere part-time work-at-home lobbyist who is paid for just two days per week at Suzuki. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-21m> She is NOT a scientist, and she is NOT a researcher. And neither is Nadine Bachand, who is paid by Équiterre, which is a mere shield for David Suzuki Foundation. REAL scientists and researchers have concluded that there is NO unambiguous evidence to suggest that neonicotinoid insecticides are to blame for the decline in bee populations. Under normal use, neonicotinoid insecticides will

NOT pose a problem. In the European Union, prohibition against neonicotinoid insecticides was a reaction to over-heated rhetoric. In fact, studies in both Europe and in North America have proven there is NO accumulation and NO bio-accumulation after 10 consecutive years.

There will be NO anti-neonicotinoid prohibition in Ontario ! It must be stopped, forever ! On November 25th, 2014, the pesticide-hating Ontario Liberal government recklessly proposed an exorbitant 80 per cent reduction (i.e. prohibition) in the number of agricultural hectares planted with seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides. <http://tinyurl.com/o3tf4sv> In essence, this proposal represents a thinly-veiled prohibition, the very same kind of reckless and arbitrary legislation that has already destroyed Ontario's professional lawn care industry. Since 2009, the carnage caused by this prohibition against so-called cosmetic pesticides has inflicted business destruction and business failures. Because of Ontario's 2009 provincial prohibition, businesses operating in the professional lawn care industry have LOST OVER 500,000,000 DOLLARS, with over 12,500 UNEMPLOYED.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-43B> The destruction of the professional lawn care industry was extensive because there were/are NO valid economical alternatives to replace the prohibited products that were desperately need to control damaging pests of turf and ornamental plants.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> Similarly, Ontario's agriculture industry WILL BE imminently facing destruction since neonicotinoid insecticides are desperately needed to effectively and safely control damaging pests of crops. The pesticide-hating Ontario Liberal government is falsely alleging that neonicotinoid insecticides are the cause of so-called bee colony collapse disorder — in fact, bee losses occur because some bee-keepers may be wholly unsuited to be raising bees. Overall, there is NO bee crisis in Ontario because of insecticides, and ANY prohibition is NOT necessary ! The Ontario Liberal government, and bee conspiracy fanatics, are NOT credible sources of real scientific information upon which this political decision about prohibition can be made. It is inescapable that the allegations against neonicotinoid insecticides are FALSE ! Even Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has stated that there is NO bee crisis, since the vast majority of bee-keeping operations have NOT been affected and have been able to maintain strong and healthy bee colonies, as evidenced by hive strength and honey production. <http://tinyurl.com/ndavhaa> If we had less conventional neonicotinoid use in Ontario, we would still have bee colony collapse disorder, because many bee-keepers are NOT competent to manage their hives. There is NO other recourse but litigation and complaints ! CropLife Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, and all agricultural businesses, must sue the neonicotinoid-hating fanatics' brains out, **INCLUDING DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION (AKA EQUITERRE)** ! They must stop the proposed fanatical prohibition in Ontario, whatever the cost may be ! They must demand that

the proposed prohibition be stopped, forever. For more information, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8FZ> We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about NON-EXPERT PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G