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**Invoke the Precautionary Principle and Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides in British Columbia**

Posted by: joan.Russow on <http://PEJ.org> Monday, February 15, 2010 - 11:43 AM  
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**Invoke the Precautionary Principle and Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides in British Columbia**

PEJ news - Joan Russow (Ph.D.) Global Compliance Research Project

Support a province-wide ban on lawn and garden pesticides. For years the precautionary principle has been a fundamental principle of international law. This principle has been enunciated in different ways such as:

Where there is a threat to the environment and human health, the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent the threat. There has been more than sufficient data on the health and environmental consequences of the use of pesticides to justify a complete ban on production, sale and use of not just cosmetic pesticides but of most pesticides.

Today is the deadline for submitting comments (see details in Annex below)

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The invoking of the precautionary principle is not just a choice but also a legal obligation of the Government of British Columbia.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity is the following version of the precautionary principle:

...where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat (Convention on Biological Diversity).

BC is bound by the Convention on Biological Diversity because there was full consultation with the BC Government before the signing and the ratifying of the Convention.

At the 1992, United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signed the Convention on Biological Diversity. The signing of the Conventions was done after full consultation with the Province of British Columbia. Not only was there consultation with the Province prior to the signing but also prior to the ratification of the Convention. In a somewhat redacted document, Cabinet endorsement of the Convention on Biological Diversity and [Framework Convention on Climate Change] that I obtained through Freedom of Information, it was indicated that the Hon. John Cashore, the then Minister of Environment, had been mandated, at the meeting, in Aylmer, P.Q., of Canadian Environment Ministers, to move a motion supporting Canada's ratification of the two Conventions.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, then officially ratified the Conventions on December 4, 1992.

British Columbia is thus bound by the Convention on Biological Diversity because there was full provincial consultation and support for the Convention.

2010 the International Year of Biodiversity

In honour of the International Year of Biodiversity, I urge the Government of British Columbia to finally discharge its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity by introducing new legislation in 2010 to ban the production, sale and use of cosmetic use of pesticides [and to consider a more extensive ban on the general use of pesticides].

The Cancer Society supports the ban on sale and use of cosmetic use of pesticides

I commend the Cancer Society for finally taking a strong position against pesticides. The serious health consequences especially on young children have been known for years, and governments, which have knowingly permitted the continued use, have been criminally negligent.

The Cancer Society has circulated the following information:

"The cosmetic use of pesticides is harmful to public health and the environment.

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**Invoke the Precautionary Principle and Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides in British Columbia**

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**Provincial government shuts BCCLA out of international media centre**

Pesticides have been linked to cancer, and studies show that children are more vulnerable. The use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes is unnecessary, as safe and effective alternatives exist.

76% of British Columbians are in favour of provincial pesticide legislation, and British Columbia municipalities are also calling on the BC Government to pass provincial legislation. Several other provinces have bans in place or in progress Now is the time for the BC Government to pass new legislation that prohibits the use and sale of chemical pesticides for lawns and gardens, allowing exceptions only to protect public health. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), or the use of pesticides as a last resort<sup>1</sup> to deal with weeds and insects, should not be included in cosmetic pesticide legislation.

And calls for [the government to put a stop to the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides by 2011, by introducing new legislation in 2010." See Canadian Cancer Society web site <http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do>

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**Tomgram: Pratap Chatterjee, Destabilizing Pakistan**

**Tories to hire "green" adviser: let's all apply**

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**Saturday, February 06**

**VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic) Evicted from Office in Victoria**

**Stop carping: Fish farms are the real problem**

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**Is Contempt of Parliament and Parliamentary Committees "sufficient cause" for suspending, removing or jailing Harper and impugned ministers?**

**Seeking a Cultural Revolution: From Consumerism to Sustainability**

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**Chevron Facing Free Speech Problems In U.S. Over Defense of \$27 Billion Ecuador Lawsuit**

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**Hyper-militarisation of development assistance to Haiti.**

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- [Harper, and his regressive policies on climate change, are even out of sync with the World Economic Forum](#)
- [Local Leaders Shut Out of Military-Run Relief Efforts in Haiti](#)

**Friday, January 29**

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- [Blair's interrogation before Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war: no matter what Blair says; the invasion was an illegal act](#)

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