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## Protecting Human Health

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### New Law to Weed Out Lawn and Garden Pesticides in Ontario

Now that Ontario and Quebec have provincial bans on unnecessary lawn and garden pesticides, it's time for the rest of Canada to follow suit.

[Take Action now](#) to get your province pesticide free!

Ontario legislature approves ban on lawn and garden pesticides!

On June 18, 2008, lawmakers in Ontario passed the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act, which prohibits the sale and use of pesticides on lawns and gardens throughout Canada's largest province. See news release

This is a major step towards reducing pesticide use, because not allowing pesticides on store shelves is simply the best way to make sure that they're not used.



If you are one of the thousands of Ontario residents who

contacted the government in support of a sales ban, THANK YOU! You are a part of this important victory.

But this good news has some rough edges.

First, the new law prevents cities and towns from enforcing bylaws that are more restrictive of pesticide use than the provincial ban. It also allows **golf courses** to continue using pesticides and gives power to the Ontario minister of the environment to allow other exemptions--a potentially dangerous loophole.

Important details the ban will be finalized in the coming months as the government develops regulations. The regulations are where "the rubber hits the road": it will detail which pesticides are banned and when exemptions are allowed.

The David Suzuki Foundation is calling on the province to match or exceed the strongest pesticide bylaws already in place in cities like Toronto and Peterborough.

#### Provincial Pesticide Bans Work!

Quebec is currently the only province to restrict cosmetic pesticide sales (the Ontario ban will not be in place until 2009). Statistics Canada found that the number of households using pesticides in Quebec decreased by 50% between 1994 and 2005. Nationwide, pesticide use dipped by only 2 percentage points over the same period. [Click here](#) for summary

Read [Pesticide Free? Qui!](#) to learn about how Quebec's cosmetic pesticide legislation works, how it can be improved, and how it can be a model for pesticide laws in other provinces.

The truth behind industry generated myths about [provincial pesticide bans](#).

#### Background Information:

[David Suzuki explains](#) why his garden is free of chemical pesticides.

[Tips to make your own garden pesticide free.](#)

View the David Suzuki Foundation's [submission to committee](#) (June 9th, 2008) and [briefing note](#) (June 16th, 2008) outlining our concerns.

The David Suzuki Foundation's [comments on Ontario's draft legislation](#). (May 22nd, 2008).

The David Suzuki Foundation's [comments on Ontario's cosmetic pesticide ban](#) to the provincial government. (Jan 31st, 2008)

[Joint statement of 15 health and environmental organizations](#) in support of Ontario-wide ban. (January, 2008)

[Northern Exposure: Acute Pesticide Poisonings in Canada](#). This study published by the David Suzuki Foundation reports 1600 cases of acute pesticide poisoning in Ontario in

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[Sayo feels she is part of a community of like-minded people.](#)

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a year, more than half involving children under the age of six.

[Pesticide Literature Review](#) by the Ontario College of Family Physicians: a systematic review of human health effects associated with chronic pesticide exposure.

Fifty pesticides registered for use in Canada are banned in other countries. Read more in [The Food We Eat](#).

News releases--  
[April 22nd, 2008](#)  
[June 18th, 2008](#)

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