

*Force of Nature Media Report :  
The Environmental Movement  
in the Media from an  
Independent Perspective.*

# **Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.**

Part 9.

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

Notable quotation.

*<< Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Kuwait prohibit using 2,4-D on lawns and gardens, Belize severely restricts its use. >>*

2 of 12.

**Well, now.**

**We should now be convinced that 2,4-D is dangerous.**

## Dow Suing Canada Because Quebec Bans Controversial Pesticide

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

<http://montreal.about.com/b/>

That's right Montreal. Our federal tax money is being spent as we speak on defending Quebec's **Pesticides Management Code** — a code that limits the use of cosmetic or non-essential lawncare products — to a company that brought you innovations as varied as saran wrap, Styrofoam and napalm-b !

**Dow AgroSciences** — a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dow Chemical — and their legal team invoked a nifty **NAFTA** provision and want compensation in the order of **\$2 million** plus legal fees reimbursed over **Quebec** " *wrongfully* " banning the use of products containing **2,4-D** (which is, incidentally, the " *safer* " of two herbicides used, in ester form, to make chemical superstar **Agent Orange**, another fine **Dow** product).



3 of 12.

This Montreal Gazette article interviews Donald Page, then executive director of the **Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research** and he is adamant that **Quebec** is going to lose the suit because they won't be able to prove **2,4-D** causes cancer. So as long as it doesn't cause cancer, it must be safe ? Does that kind of logic make anyone feel safe ? Page says nothing about the herbicide's reported links to birth defects, damage to reproductive systems, irreversible eye damage, endocrine system disruption, neurological impairments, and a compromised immune system.

Why ?

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

So what is **2,4-D** ? It's a weed-killing pesticide Dow's in-house research deems safe and non-carcinogenic. **Health Canada** agrees, as long as it's used properly. So does the European Union. And the World Health Organization only considers **2,4-D** " *moderately hazardous*. " The Environmental Protection Agency also reports **2,4-D** is safe as long as it does not exceed a " *maximum contaminant level*," kind of like how chocolate can contain a certain amount of rat poop and still be deemed safe (and legal) for human consumption (the FDA calls said poop " *mammalian excreta* " and group the latter, as well as fly legs, maggots, insect filth, rodent hairs, parasitic cysts, and mold under the foodie blanket term, " *defects* "; kinda makes the allergy-prone wonder what they're allergic to, the food or the " *defects*, " n'est-ce-pas ?)

On the other side of the coin, **Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Kuwait prohibit using 2,4-D on lawns and gardens, Belize severely restricts its use**, South Australia seasonally bans certain formulations of the herbicide used by farmers. About.com's lawn care expert Kelly Burke thinks chemical pesticides should be restricted to licensed applicators, suggesting household use may not be appropriate, Ontario is following **Quebec's** lead and prohibiting 85 pesticides, including **2,4-D**. Starting **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** and New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council is urging the EPA to recant their " *safe* " position on **2,4-D**, pointing to a flawed risk assessment.

4 of 12.

Now the city of Montreal is chiming in, declaring their full support in defending **Quebec's Pesticides Management Code** along with over 40 **Quebec** environmental and community organizations.

But before the plot thickens, tell me what you think. Do you feel in safe hands with **Dow's** multi million dollar research and **Health Canada's** heads up or do you support **Quebec's** and Montreal's respective bans on pesticides ?

And at the end of the day, who is genuinely protecting you and your family's health ?

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

### Background Information from an Independent Perspective.

#### 2,4-D prohibited by other nations.

« 2,4-D » is not approved for lawns and gardens in Denmark, Kuwait, Norway, and Sweden. « 2,4-D » use is severely restricted in Belize, but it is approved in the « EUROPEAN UNION » (E.U.).

Of course, the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » wishes to give the impression that things are so much better in Belize, Denmark, Kuwait, Norway, and Sweden. Indeed « 2,4-D » is used extensively on golf courses and other immaculately-maintained green spaces that are resplendent throughout the war-torn Kuwait region. (See photo.)

5 of 12.



# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

In **2005**, the « PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY OF HEALTH CANADA » (P.M.R.A.) responded to the issue of « NATION PROHIBITION » with following statement. —

*<< 2,4-D is no longer used in Sweden or Norway and its use is severely restricted in Denmark. Environmental effects are cited as the primary reason for these actions as 2,4-D has the potential to enter groundwater, the primary source of drinking water in these countries. However, subsequent to these actions, the European Commission, upon completion of their re-evaluation of 2,4-D on October 1, 2001, concluded that it was acceptable for continued use the European Union, of which both Sweden and Denmark are members.*

*As part of the re-evaluation of 2,4-D, the PMRA has compiled all available drinking water data from various regions and sources across Canada. These data indicate that the levels in drinking water do not pose unacceptable risks for the Canadian population.*

*It is important to recognize that of the many studies published, some report associations between adverse health effects and 2,4-D exposure, while many others report a lack of association. As most of these papers acknowledge, epidemiology studies on their own are difficult to interpret because biases and confounding factors often preclude any convincing link between specific pesticide exposures and effects. For example, influences from other chemicals and the physical environment encountered at the same time as pesticide exposures and recall bias from the individuals examined are two factors that can strongly influence the study result.*

6 of 12.

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

*Without an actual exposure calculation, it is difficult to assess whether pesticides could have been responsible for an adverse health outcome. This is why the PMRA also relies on the more scientifically exact method of quantitatively estimating risk by comparing exposures to the results of toxicity studies in laboratory animals. The proprietary studies used are conducted to internationally accepted standards and include toxicity studies done on a number of laboratory animal species for comparative purposes, as well as studies of exposure from all routes and methods of exposure. Safety factors (typically 100 to 1000 fold) are built into the assessment to account for different sensitivities between humans and experimental animals and among humans (age, gender and individual sensitivities to pesticides). In general, this is the same approach that is currently utilized by the various international pesticide regulatory authorities including the US EPA and other OECD countries. >>*

7 of 12.

### **If a chemical can be prohibited in Kuwait and Belize, why can't it be prohibited in Canada ???**

The « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » will argue that these nations are « INNOVATIVE WORLD LEADERS ». If they can do it, why can't Canada ???

The « GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY » can argue back that, under the provisions of the **2004** « PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT », a special review of a particular chemical can also be ordered if all of its uses have been prohibited in other countries.

**If a chemical like 2,4-D can be prohibited in Kuwait and Belize, why can't members of the environmental movement simply move to these wonderful and more advanced countries ?**

**No comment.**



# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009



8 of 12.

In Canada, pest control products, or pesticides, are regulated by « *Health Canada* » under the « *Pest Control Products Act* », and are among the most stringently regulated substances in Canada. The « *Pest Management Regulatory Agency* » (P.M.R.A.) is the branch of « *Health Canada* » that administers the Act on behalf of the « *Minister Of Health* ». The primary objective of the P.M.R.A. is to prevent unacceptable risks to people and the environment from the use of pest control products.

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

### Background Information from an Independent Perspective.

#### The Herbicide-Orange-2,4-D affair.

According to the rabid student-operated « SIERRA CLUB » ...

<< In Canada and elsewhere, herbicides are the most frequently used type of pesticide and the most common herbicide in Canada is 2,4-D. About one-third of all pesticides registered for use on turf in Canada contain 2,4-D, a chlorophenoxy acid. >>



9 of 12.

« 2,4-D » is the most hated turf maintenance chemical of the « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT ». Here's why.

The most infamous herbicide combination used in the Vietnam War was « HERBICIDE ORANGE », otherwise known as « AGENT ORANGE ». This product contained a 50 : 50 mixture of « N-BUTYL ESTERS » of « 2,4-D » and « 2,4,5-T ». « HERBICIDE ORANGE » was never a registered product in either the United States or Canada.



The controversy associated with the use of « HERBICIDE ORANGE » was associated with a contaminant in the « 2,4,5-T » component, and not « 2,4-D ». At the time, « 2,4,5-T » was contaminated with a dioxin named « TCDD ». Studies showed that this dioxin, and not necessarily « HERBICIDE ORANGE », increased the risk of various types of cancer and birth defects. Consequently, « HERBICIDE ORANGE » was suspended for use by the « UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ». « 2,4,5-T » was later entirely withdrawn from the market.

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

Since this time, « 2,4-D » has been often associated with dioxins and cancer because of « HERBICIDE ORANGE ». (Since **1983**, « 2,4-D » can be considered free of dioxins.) The « ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT » has argued that the Herbicide-Orange-2,4-D affair has « PROVEN » that the « GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY » uses « DANGEROUS » products like « 2,4-D ».

The « GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY » can argue back that « 2,4-D » is not « HERBICIDE ORANGE ». Additionally, « 2,4-D » does not contain harmful dioxins.

Furthermore, it can be stated that « 2,4-D » does not cause cancer, which was the conclusion of the Canadian federal « PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY OF HEALTH CANADA » (P.M.R.A.) in **2005**, indicating that

...



10 of 12.

*<< the toxicological database does not suggest a carcinogenic risk >>.*

In **2008**, the P.M.R.A. has also stated that (the underlined empasis is our own) ...

*<< Products containing 2,4-D do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. >>*

*<< Risks to homeowners and their children from contact with treated lawns and turf are not of concern. >>*

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

According to the « *ONTARIO PESTICIDES ADVISORY COMMITTEE* » (O.P.A.C.), under the chairmanship of the renowned Clayton Switzer ...

*<< OPAC has concluded after in-depth consideration of the scientific evidence, there is no reason for us to recommend additional restrictions on the use of 2,4-D. 2,4-D will continue to be classified according to the current classification guidelines. >>*

« *CROPLIFE CANADA* », the group that represents the manufacturers of pest control products, has taken an even stronger position regarding cancer. —



*<< Do pesticides cause cancer? There are no studies which link pesticide exposure to cancer. In fact, health experts — from the Dietitians of Canada to the Canadian Cancer Society — consistently advocate a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and grains as one of the best ways to prevent cancer and heart disease. Pesticides are an important tool that allows us to grow an affordable, abundant food supply of fruit and vegetables. >>*

11 of 12.

The « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* » has never accepted any of these conclusions. In fact, it is infuriated, and began asking for province-wide prohibitions in earnest.

And more recently, in **September 2008**, the « *ONTARIO NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY* » (N.D.P.) has expressed its own misinformed dissatisfaction with « *2,4-D* ». (N.D.P. is one of the **political** shields of the « *ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT* ».) —

*<< There is a significant body of research showing links between use of certain pesticides on golf courses, such as 2,4-D, and cancer in humans and wildlife. >*



# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 9.

17/06/2009

*Force of Nature* was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the *Green Space Industry*, the *environmental movement*, politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States. *Force of Nature* is produced in two parts. First. The *Media Report* itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the *Green Space Industry*. Second. *Independent Perspective.*, which is a running commentary, sometimes also of a more technical in nature.

*Force of Nature* is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. The opinions expressed in these e-newsletters, even though from an **INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE**, may not reflect those of everyone in the *Green Space Industry*, or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. Be warned ! Mr. Gathercole and his team may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters.

William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the *University of Guelph*, and another pure and applied science degree from *McGill University*. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the *Green Space Industry*, including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of *environmental terrorism* for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. ( i.e. the Town of Hudson. ) Although he can be accused of being *anti-environment-movement*, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate **FOR** the *Green Space Industry*. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is *undeniable*. ( Hopefully ! ) For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for *TURF & Recreation Magazine*, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All pictures contained in *Force of Nature* were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, as either educational tools, industry archives, promotional stills, publicity photos, or press media stock.

Information presented in *Force of Nature* has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental.

The following titles are currently available. (Or, will be available in the near future.) ● Alberta Prohibition ● British Columbia Prohibition ● Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment ● Consequences ● David Suzuki Foundation ● Death and the Environmental Movement ● Golf and Landscape Trade Industries ● June Irwin, The Princess of Junk Science ● Kazimiera Jean Cottam ● Kelowna BC Prohibition ● New Brunswick Prohibition ● Nova Scotia Prohibition ● Ontario Prohibition ● Organic Fertilizers ● Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals ● Prince Edward Island Prohibition ● Quebec Prohibition ● Rachel Carson, The Queen of Junk Science ● Randy Hillier, The Next Premier of Ontario ● Salmon Arm BC Prohibition ● The 9/11 Era of the Green Space Industry ● The Failure of Integrated Pest Management ● The Misconceptions About Cancer ● The Wisdom of the Solomons ● Wisconsin Fertilizer Prohibition ● **ASK FOR A COPY OF ANY BACK ISSUE TODAY.**

12 of 12.