

Facts Concerning
the Lack of any Scientific Basis
for the Anti-Pesticide Stance
of the Canadian Cancer Society and
Other Anti-Pesticide Organizations

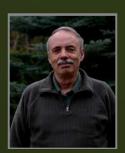
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John J. Holland Communications Director

Media Release

The Canadian Cancer Society (particularly the BC/Yukon division, with several prominent anti-pesticide activists on its Board) has taken a LEADING ROLE in attempting to convince the Canadian public, as well as Provincial and municipal authorities, that pesticides are responsible for an increased incidence of disease, particularly cancer.

The CCS, and other anti-pesticide groups, never miss an opportunity to state that there is a "growing body of evidence" linking pesticides with cancer, and that we should, therefore, ban all of what they erroneously categorize as "cosmetic" pesticides (a contrived term which cannot be found on ANY pesticide label).



What is not explained is that the « *evidence* » consists of some epidemiological studies showing a WEAK ( in most cases, a VERY WEAK ) link between some pesticides and cancer.

Not stated is the fact that there are NUMEROUS studies which can find NO SUCH CORRELATIONS, or that there exist some which show inverse relationships ( in other words, LESS cancer when some pesticides are used ).

### **EPIDEMIOLOGY STUDIES**

All this serves to illustrate the problem with epidemiology, not with pesticides. Even prominent epidemiologists have stated that EPIDE-MIOLOGY IS INCAPABLE OF DISCERNING SMALL EFFECTS, and that small effects detailed in studies may well be DUE TO CHANCE.

Those relying on such studies seem unaware of the limitations of epidemiology.

By definition, epidemiology CANNOT PROVE CAUSATION, only correlations, and a legitimate study may state that its findings might be due to other, possibly unknown, confounding factors.

This one would never know from the way the anti-pesticide groups interpret studies with weak links.

On the other hand, epidemiological methods have convincingly illustrated such correlations, as those between smoking and lung



cancer, and water-borne pathogens and cholera. Subsequent toxicological studies have been used to confirm the connections.

However, the difference here is that these diseases result in adverse effects to large numbers of humans, and it was relatively easy to show convincing correlations.

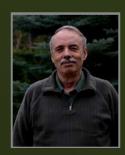
It is also of utmost importance to understand that toxicology, a much more exact science, does not corroborate supposed connections between cancer and those pesticides which have been disingenuously labelled « cosmetic ».

Despite claims to the contrary, Health Canada's PMRA (Pest Management Regulatory Agency) is well aware of all these epidemiological studies, and has both toxicologists and epidemiologists on staff to analyze and evaluate them.

It should be, although does not seem to be, illuminating to realize that not a single case of cancer has been found to have been caused by « *cosmetic* » pesticides.

### UNITED NATIONS REPORT

In fact, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC is part of the United Nation's World Health Organization) lists VERY FEW PESTICIDES as carcinogenic, or as probable or possible carcinogens, and NONE of these can be found among « cosmetic » pesticides used in Canada.



### AMERICAN HEALTH STUDY

The ongoing American Health Study (AHS) is the largest epidemiological study ever undertaken on the possible effects of pesticides:

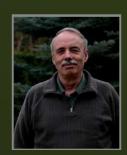
It has 85,000 farmers, their spouses, and commercial applicators enrolled in lowa and North Carolina. Most farmers in this study had used pesticides for 11 to 30 years before being enrolled.

As one would expect, STRONG CORRELATIONS were observed for cancer risk factors such as obesity, smoking, and age, but there were NO STRONG ASSOCIATIONS WITH PESTICIDES.

There were some WEAK LINKS, such as between the users of 2,4–D (the most common herbicide used on lawns) and colorectal cancer: a 30 per cent REDUCTION in colorectal cancer.

Another study, completed with data from the AHS, revealed yet another INVERSE relationship. This time, A REDUCED INCIDENCE OF PANCREATIC CANCER was observed in those who had used DDT.

Obviously, it is hard to believe that occupational exposure to pesticides has a cancer-reducing benefit. It does, on the other hand, help to illustrate the PROBLEM with using epidemiological studies as a definitive foundation for conclusions regarding the possible health effects of pesticides.



### WEAK ASSOCIATIONS BY CHANCE

According to Dr. Scott Weichenthal of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) ...

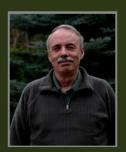
<< Weak associations may occur by chance, particularly when small numbers of exposed cases are available, and when multiple tests of association are conducted. >>

Although the American Health Study (AHS) is composed of those who are MOST LIKELY among society's most pesticide—exposed people, Weichenthal states that ...

<< Current occupational exposure levels are not expected to result in increased risks of adverse health effects. >>

### CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

The administrators and board of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) should be taken to task for wasting the contributions collected by selfless volunteers who work in the hope that they might aid in the discovery of a cure for cancer.



Although the CCS has taken a leading role in the attempt to have municipalities and provinces prohibit WELL-RESEARCHED and REGISTERED pesticides, it has NOT ONE scientist on staff with the necessary expertise to evaluate the work and findings of the over 350 QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

It does not seem to be generally realized that the Canadian Cancer Society is an agency composed MOSTLY OF VOLUNTEERS, with a well-paid administrative staff.

A great deal of money has been WASTED by the Canadian Cancer Society, in British Columbia (BC), and across Canada, on numerous ...

- newspaper ads,
- press releases through professional agencies ( whose services are expensive ),
- extensive letter-writing to newspapers,
- creating anti-pesticide website proclamations,
- formulating anti-pesticide Power Point presentations to be given to municipal councils,
- paying anti-pesticide activists to give their presentations to councils and others,
- publishing and distributing unscientific brochures,
- having numerous anti-pesticide ads placed in newspapers,
- sponsoring an anti–pesticide author for making numerous presentations around BC, and
- having its staff personally lobby cabinet ministers and legislators.



This expenditure of scarce resources SAVES NOT ONE LIFE, and prevents NOT ONE CASE OF CANCER.

The same money could have been used to further increase awareness of the benefits of quitting smoking, or of the link between diet and cancer, the largest known preventable causes of cancer.

The funds to discredit pesticides, spent instead to educate the public on real causes of cancers would, without doubt, have ACTUALLY SAVED SOME LIVES.

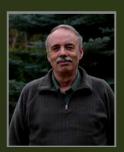
This is a shameful result created by an institution that is supposedly devoted to decreasing the incidence of cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society has done, and is doing, valuable work in other areas, hence its good reputation, and it is most disconcerting to realize how badly it has steered off course on a subject for which there is ample science and qualified scientists easily available.

It is unforgivable that a respected Canadian institution is SQUAN-DERING its hard-earned reputation, and limited resources, in such an UNSCIENTIFIC PURSUIT, particularly at a time when sufficient research money is lacking.

### CANCELLATION OF CANCER STUDIES

According to a January 16, 2010, article in The Globe and Mail, cancer studies are being CANCELLED due to ever-increasing costs.



For 2009/2010, the Canadian Cancer Society was able to fund ONLY 19% of applications.

Even more disturbing is that 76 « strongly recommended » cancer research grants COULD NOT RECEIVE FUNDS, and 158 others, that were also approved, COULD NOT GET OFF THE GROUND.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society's Vice-President of Research, Michael Wosnick ...

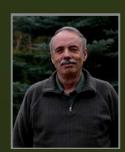
<< It just gets depressing when you see how much gets left on the table. >>

Not so depressing, obviously, that scarce money can't be wasted by the Canadian Cancer Society on the UNSCIENTIFIC ATTACK on « cosmetic » pesticides.

### CANADIAN REGISTRATION PROCESS

A common claim by anti-pesticide groups, and individuals, is that many pesticide studies accepted by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in their registration process are biased in favour of the products, because the studies are financed by the manufacturers.

This assertion is totally spurious.



It is both UNREASONABLE and UNACCEPTABLE to expect the Canadian public to pay for studies that may benefit the product manufacturer. Such is NOT DONE for pharmaceutical companies and others, and SHOULD NOT be for pesticide manufacturers.

### GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES

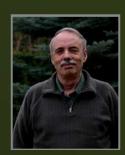
What is important to note, and which is either PURPOSELY IGNORED or BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION of the anti-pesticide groups, is that ALL STUDIES used in support of a pesticide registration must be completed by laboratories sanctioned by Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), and using ONLY GLP practices.

GLP is a set of standards maintained by the international OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development).

The 30 OECD member countries include Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Sweden, and Japan.

All aspects of research must attain a HIGH STANDARD, with all steps documented, and all results must be reproducible. Studies have to be DEMONSTRATIVELY VALID and unintentional violations can invalidate the study, while intentional violations may be a criminal offence.

Manufacturers do pay for many of the studies; they cannot pay for the results they may want.



### Conclusions

Why are the over 350 HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS at Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and their findings totally dismissed?

Are we to believe that anti-pesticide groups and organizations (which, unfortunately, includes the Canadian Cancer Society) — with absolutely NO scientists with pesticide expertise — are better qualified to judge the effects of pesticides than real experts?

From much of the media coverage, and the numerous bylaws enacted by municipalities and provinces, it would seem the answer is  $\mbox{wes}$  ».

This is definitely one of the tragedies of our times.

Science, not just in the case of pesticides, is being supplanted by PROPAGANDA and MISCONCEPTIONS.

Also disturbing is that the media often treat the FABRICATIONS of the anti-pesticide groups and individuals as proven science.

It seems that if you repeat something often enough, it will be accepted as truth.

And, despite what some in the Canadian Cancer Society, and other organizations, seem to believe, science fact can be neither determined, nor confirmed, through public opinion polls.

# Canada's most eloquent and intelligent writer on public policy and pest control products

### John J. Holland.

Communications Director Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association of Western Canada (I.E.P.M.A.) iepma@shaw.ca

He is Canada's most eloquent and intelligent writers on the subject of public policy and pest control products.

Here is a list of Mr. Holland's career highlights and accomplishments:

Honours BA in History and Geology.

Post-graduate work in History.

After university, co-owned a large bookstore in Ontario.

Moved to British Columbia from Ontario in 1978.

Worked for a structural pest control company in British Columbia for three years, the last two of which Mr. Holland was a supervisor.

Owned a large tree and lawn care company in the Okanagan from 1983 until 2004, when he retired.

One of the founders of the ESA (Environmental Standards Association – forerunner to the Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association of Western Canada) in 1984.

President of the Environmental Standards Association, 1985 – 1994.

Vice-President of the Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association, 1998 – 2007.

Director of the Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association, 2007 – present.

According to Mr. Holland: « Although I have never used my degree in the profession for which I studied, I found that the training I received in the methods of research was invaluable in enabling me to discern the facts of the real science behind the use of pest control products. Not being a scientist, I have always been guided by the work of those who are the actual experts. »





FORCE OF NATURE was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1st, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the Green Space Industry, the Environmental-Terror-Movement, Government Officials, and the Media, nation-wide across Canada, the United States, and overseas.

Force Of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Norah G is actually an acronym for the stable of anonymous producers and writers that contribute to this e-newsletter and have now replaced Mr. Gathercole. They consist of people from the following industries: Distribution, Fertilizer, Golf, Lawn Care, Manufacturing, Municipal, Nursery, and Orchard. Many of these people are leaders in their own industries. The opinions expressed in Force Of Nature, 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! Force Of Nature may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters. Mr. Gathercole is now retired from Force Of Nature, although his name continues to appear as the founder.

William H. Gathercole is a principal FOUNDER of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry in BOTH Ontario and Quebec. He 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 GOLF and PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE, and has served in public affairs, workplace safety, and environmental compliance. Mr. Gathercole has supervised, consulted, programmed, and/or overseen the execution of HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of pest control applications in the urban landscape. He has trained, instructed, and consulted with THOUSANDS of turf managers and technicians. Mr. Gathercole has also been an agricultural agronomist. For many years, Mr. Gathercole was a contributing columnist for TURF & Recreation Magazine, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

Mr. Gathercole has followed 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 his colleagues, legal action against the prohibition of pest control products in the Town of Hudson, Quebec. For FIFTEEN YEARS, the strategies designed and implemented by Mr. Gathercole and his colleagues guaranteed the control of Enviro-Terror for the entire Modern Green Space Industry across Canada. Mr. Gathercole is personally credited for crafting the Golf Industry Exception Status, that endures to this day. He is also the creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application. Although he can be accused of being Anti-Environment-Movement, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate FOR the Modern Green Space Industry. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the Green Space Industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with Environmental issues is UNDENIABLE. (Hopefully!)

Force Of Nature is the instrument of National Organization Responding Against Huje that harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG) by concocting statements and activities seeking to prohibit FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE, and ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE conventional pest control products. Enviro—Maniacs are identified on the basis of their statements, activities, affiliations, and whereabouts. Even though each Enviro—Maniac—Culprit is a mis—guided adversary, each still deserves our respect. The terms Maniac, Culprit, Terrorist, or Basterd are not accusations of any legal wrong—doing. Force Of Nature is simply holding Alleged culprits accountable for conspiring to change public policies that TERRORIZE and THREATEN the Green Space Industry. Their pretentious prohibitionist rants has created LOSS OF REVENUES, BUSINESS FAILURES, BANKRUPTCY, and UNEMPLOYMENT, inflicting DESPAIR and DESTITUTION for THOUSANDS of hapless victims throughout the Green Space Industry. The DEPRAVED INDIFFERENCE of Maniac—Culprit—Terrorist—Basterds is viewed as a form of TERROR against the GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY. The information presented in Force Of Nature has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader by providing a sequence of historical events with commentary. Additionally, Force Of Nature inspires people to believe that ENVIRONMENTAL—TERRORISM can be STOPPED! 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. All document excerpts and pictures contained in Force Of Nature were found somewhere on the Internet. These documents and pictures are in the public domain, serving one of the following purposes: archive, education, promotion, publicity, or press release.

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We must defend the industry, whatever the cost may be !