

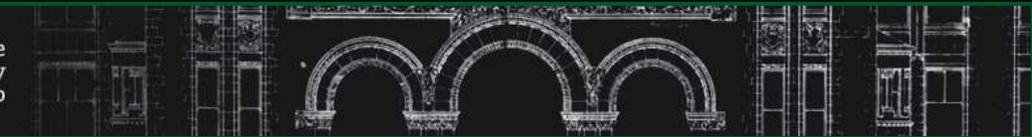


F
O
R
C
E
o
f
N
a
t
u
r
e

SS Golf Industry

The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status



Government of Ontario
Bill 64, Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act
Standing Committee on Social Policy
Committee Transcripts

June 9th, 2008

Presentation by Gideon Forman
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Selected and adapted excerpts

Forman —

[...] *the EXEMPTION for GOLF COURSES should be WITHDRAWN.*

Run-off from GOLF pesticides ultimately ends up in our water, threatening drinking water supplies, to be sure, but also aquatic wildlife and fish. [?!?!]



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

More worrisome still, scientific studies – and the [internationally-discredited] College of Family Physicians has been excellent at these – on golf course superintendents, who, as we know, spend a lot of time around pesticides, show that these workers have elevated levels of mortality from cancer. I do have the studies here. [?!?!]

While we recognize that GOLF COURSES face some special challenges in eliminating pesticides, a permanent legislated exemption, which is what the government's proposing, we believe is NOT WARRANTED, and frankly is inconsistent with the intention of the bill.

After all, golf pesticides, strictly speaking, are a « cosmetic use » as defined in the legislation – i.e., non-essential.

There are at least two PESTICIDE-FREE GOLF COURSES in Canada, as you know : [Two ATYPICAL golf courses out of a total of 2000.]

There's one in Nova Scotia, Fiddler's Green; and there's another in British Columbia, Blackburn.

[So-called « organic » golf courses are NOT regulated, and often do not have « high-end » playing conditions, which can be inadequate for the golf customer. Nor do these clubs seem to have difficult growing conditions because of a temperate climate and low number of players.]

We see no reason why Ontario operators could not follow in the footsteps of these industry leaders. [?!?!]

We also believe, frankly, that there's an economic argument to be made here, that going PESTICIDE-FREE could INCREASE GOLF CLUB REVENUES AND PROFIT, leading to some economic stimulation and some job growth. [Wrong !]



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

Would today's health-conscious golfer be willing to pay just a little more to play on a safer, more environmentally friendly surface? [?!?!]

We think the answer is yes. [?!?!]

Finally — I will wrap up, Mr. Chair; I'm mindful of the time — we urge you to REMOVE the bill's EXEMPTION for the so-called « other prescribed uses ».

This catch-all clause would, we fear, allow pesticide applications for any and every use.

Certainly it could be used to justify cosmetic spraying, which would clearly undermine the bill's whole intention.

If the issue here is ensuring that pesticides can be used for emergencies, for health and safety issues or for prevention of illness, surely that's already covered under the quite reasonable health and safety exemption.

As a doctor's organization, we can see no possible justification for an exemption that's as broad and as vague as the so-called « other prescribed uses ».

If allowed to stand, it could undermine everything the legislation hopes to achieve.

In sum, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment is VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED BAN.



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

We only ask that you drop the clause referring to municipal powers, and that you REMOVE THE EXEMPTION FOR GOLF COURSES and the so-called « other prescribed uses ».

Mr. Chair, I'm happy to answer any questions.

The Chair (Shafiq Qaadri) —

Thank you, Mr. Forman.

About a minute per side, beginning with Mr. Tabuns.

Peter Tabuns —

Could you speak directly to the whole question of health impacts on golf grounds managers ?

Forman —

Sure.

There's been a fair bit of research done in this area.

One of the studies that I'm looking at, from the [internationally-discredited] Ontario College of Family Physicians' Pesticide Literature Review — they did what's called a cohort study.



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

*They looked at 680 deceased male members of what they call the
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.*

*They compared them to cancer mortality in the general U.S. male
population and they found that on a whole range of cancers, this
cohort of GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS had HIGHER MORTALITY from
cancers. [?!?!]*

*I'm talking about lung cancer, brain cancer, non-Hodgkin's lym-
phoma and prostate cancer. [?!?!]*

*So there is a fair bit of evidence that these people who spend a
lot of their time around pesticides are at increased risk for mor-
tality from cancer. [Wrong !]*

[The results showed an excess number of deaths among golf course superinten-
dents for lung cancer.

The most likely cause of this elevated risk was the smoking habits of the cohort.
Other forms of cancer were attributed to dietary and other life-style factors.]

Peter Tabuns —

| *Thank you.*

The Chair (Shafiq Qaadri) —

| *To the government side.*



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

Kevin Daniel Flynn —

Thank you for the presentation.

Could you comment on your knowledge of the experience of other jurisdictions that have implemented pesticide bans ?

Forman —

Sure.

The best example, as you know, is the province of Quebec.

What we saw in Quebec, based on Statistics Canada, was a dramatic drop in pesticide use following their province-wide ban on these products.

They had about a 50% drop in household pesticide use, according to Statistics Canada.

So they're very effective in doing what they're trying to do, which is reduce the non-essential use of pesticides.

The Chair (Shafiq Qadri) —

To the PC side.



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

Laurie Scott —

I just wondered if you could say, in a word or two, what is the active ingredient that you say is linking the workers on the GOLF COURSE to an increased risk of cancer ?

Forman —

There's a whole range of active ingredients, and different GOLF COURSES use different products.

We're concerned with a whole range of products.

Laurie Scott —

We have Health Canada, which you haven't mentioned, and they do all the approvals.

Forman —

They do registrations, yes.

Laurie Scott —

Yes.

So does Health Canada have no credibility in these studies ?



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

Forman —

| *Sure, they have credibility.*

Laurie Scott —

| *So you don't believe what they're saying ?*

| *Because they're saying that they have tested the most susceptible portions of the population, and they find no harm or linkages with these ingredients.*

Forman —

| *With all due respect, that's not quite what they say. They say, first of all, that all pesticides come with risks, and they do.*

| *[It can be said that ladders are dangerous when not used responsibly. The same can be true of pest control products. Overall, when they are used properly, there are NO harmful irreversible effects to health and the environment ! Conventional pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE since they have been scrutinized and approved by the HUNDREDS of expert scientists at Health Canada ! Is this enough ? Not according to Forman.]*

| *There's a whole range of pesticides that they've looked at, and some are more harmful than others.*

| *But to say that there's no harm from them I don't think is quite accurate.*



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

Laurie Scott —

Well, I can use quotes that they say when their use is prescribed — they measure on the amount that is used, but it's used as directed on the labels, which are, again, all approved by Health Canada.

I'm trying to get the science behind all of this so that we have accurate information, and Health Canada is the regulatory body in that manner.

Forman —

Sure. There's a huge amount of science.

A lot of the science that they use is animal science. [?!?!]

What the doctors and nurses in the cancer Society tend to look at is human science; in other words, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES.

[Some epidemiological studies may show a WEAK, in most cases a VERY WEAK, link between some pest control products and cancer. 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, the CANADIAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY [sic] two years ago published a paper on 2,4-D — this is doctors now — and doctors said : « 2,4-D can be persuasively linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems. » [Wrong !]



The Looming Golf Industry Shipwreck !

Repugnant Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Demands NO Golf Industry Exception Status

[The people who wrote the April 2006 DISGRACEFUL and UNSCIENTIFIC article have ABSOLUTELY NO competent expertise, recognized training, or background, in matters concerning pest control products.

Moreover, the two primary authors are PERSONALLY ALLIED with Forman as co-conspirators in the prohibition of federally legal, scientifically safe, and totally irreplaceable pest control products. This report is far from being independent and unbiased. In fact, it may have just as well been written by Forman himself.

Finally, the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) has told Forman NOT TO CITE this article. The authors have NO AFFILIATION with CPS. It was NOT written by the Canadian Paediatric Society, and does not reflect the opinion of CPS. Canadian Paediatric Society does not have ANY position statements on the use of pest control products.

The April 2006 article is TOTALLY VALUELESS and UTTERLY WORTHLESS.]

Forman —

So if you look at what doctors are saying ...

The Chair (Shafiq Qaadri) —

I'm going to have to intervene there, Mr. Forman.

Despite this being, of course, an ultimately important point, I would, as I say, encourage you to communicate the materials in question and answer later, perhaps through the committee or even directly.

So thank you for your presentation on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

In Canada ...

The leading
SUBVERSIVE LUNATIC
Environmental
Terror Organizations
are demanding ...

**NO Prohibition
Exception
for Golf !**

NO PROHIBITION EXCEPTION FOR GOLF



Canadian Association of Physicians
for the Environment (CAPE)



Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)



Canadian Coalition for Health
and Environment (CCHE)



Canadian Environmental Law
Association (CELA)

NO PROHIBITION EXCEPTION FOR GOLF



David Suzuki Foundation



Green Party of Ontario



New Democratic Party
of Ontario (NDP)

NO PROHIBITION EXCEPTION FOR GOLF



Pesticide Free BC



Pesticide Free Ontario (PFO)



Registered Nurses' Association
of Ontario (RNAO)



Sierra Club of Canada



*Every word a CAPE-Enviro-Basterd
writes is a lie and a deception,
including 'and' and 'the'*