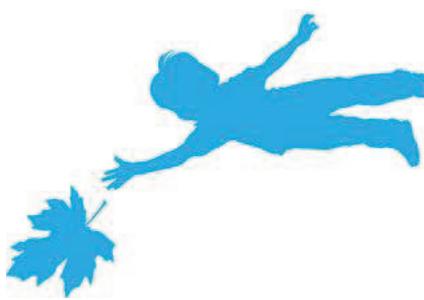


Presentation to  
Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides  
November 8, 2011

Toxic Free Canada



First Call: BC Child and  
Youth Advocacy Coalition



toxic free!  
C a n a d a

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# Unnecessary use of cosmetic pesticides

There's many  
alternatives

Why create  
unnecessary  
exposure?



# Pregnant women and young children particularly vulnerable

Chemicals in pesticides affect developing fetus

And

Young children whose brain and other organs are still developing

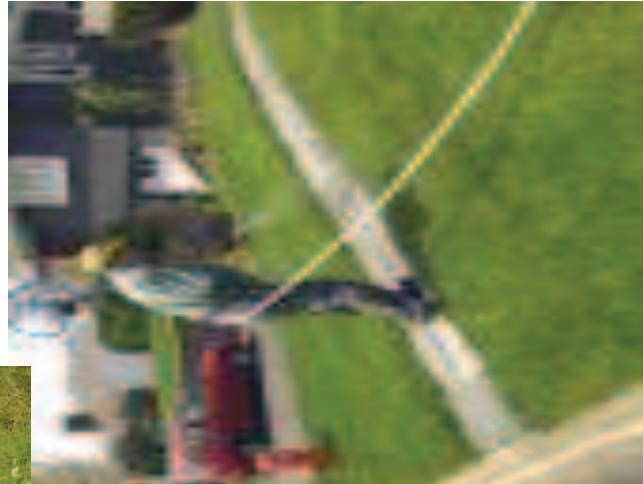


# Chemical exposure during critical periods

Could affect brain cells



Send false signals to  
developing reproductive  
organs



Precursor to cancer



Frogs, birds, salmon, bees are  
vulnerable



Evidence – manufacturer's own ingredient lists identify carcinogens, neuro-toxic, endocrine disrupting & reproductive chemicals



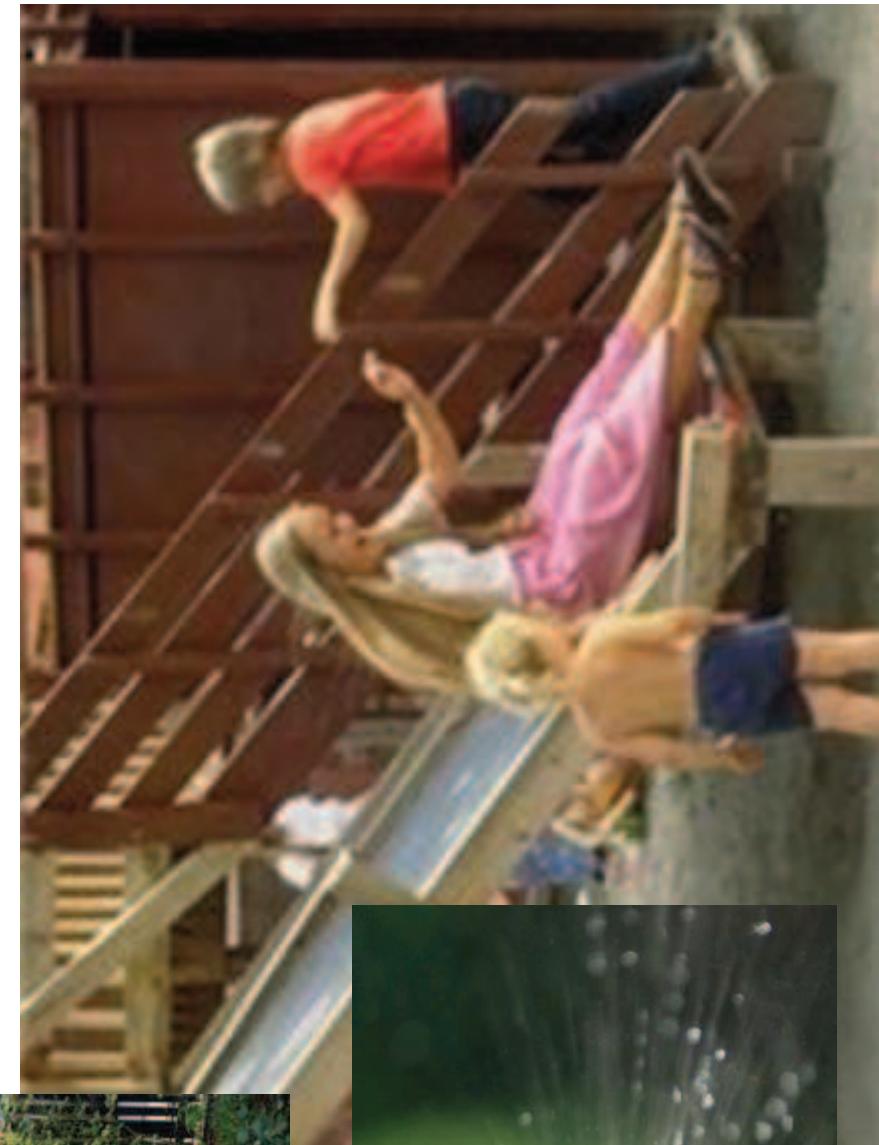
Use according to directions





**Drift**

Evidence that spraying reaches less than  
10% of intended target  
Can drift 100 metres



Bees give us 1 of 3  
of our food sources



**Particularly like dandelions and clover**

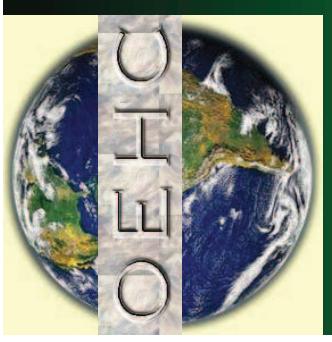
## **Bees native to BC**





## **Neurotoxins in pesticides affects brain and nervous system**

1. Interferes with enzyme cholinesterase which is essential for normal functioning of nervous system
2. Pyrethroids affect transmission of impulses along nerves
3. Damage myelin shield insulation covering spinal chord and nerves



# Dr. Elizabeth Guillette Study Pesticides in Mexico

## Drawings of a person by 4 year old children



**54 months**  
female

**55 months**  
female

**53 months**  
female

Drawings by children exposed  
to commonly used pesticides

Drawings by children  
**not exposed** to pesticides

Elizabeth A., Guillette et al: *Anthropological Approach to the Evaluation of Preschool Children Exposed to Pesticides in Mexico*. Environmental Health Perspective, vol. 106, No. 6, June 1998.

# Learning disabilities

On the increase

Children classified with learning disabilities and placed in special ed programs

Conservative estimates  
– LDs 3-5% of population



# Health Canada slow to act to protect children

Low dose exposure

As low as 1 part in 4B

Lead in children's toys

Bisphenol A



# BPA

Identified as a xenoestrogen 1936

Can cause cell changes at extremely low doses

Invitro exposure induces changes in mammary gland very early - associated with breast cancer



## **Health Canada still hasn't banned BPA**

Only in bottles and sippy cups for under 18 months old - no consumer labelling

Copyright Michelle Tamm

# IPM doesn't change the culture and habits

Does not eliminate use of cosmetic pesticides. Some increases noted in studies

Does not prevent pesticide abuse – spraying in wind, rainy when run-off is high

Does not protect areas with a buffer zone



# Workability of IPM?????

\$\$\$WHO will monitor:  
Accreditation

That it is the last tool?  
Enforcement & compliance



Will the government use:  
WorkSafe Officers?  
Forest Lands and Natural  
Resources Officers  
New corp of officers?

How can this piece-meal  
regulation be monitored for  
public health and safety?

Time to ban unnecessary use of pesticides

Move to a new health-based paradigm



Banning smoking used to be called  
“Junk Science”



# Environmental exposures in community – no right to know



It's time to ban unnecessary  
exposure to our children

