

Home	News	Media	FAQ	Facts	IPM	Lawn Tips	City Council	CHO Members
------	------	-------	-----	-------	-----	-----------	--------------	-------------

The Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa

Action Alert	Info for Doctors	Support CHO	Petition	A Model Pesticide Bylaw	Documents	Links
------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	---	---------------------------	-----------------------

[Municipal Pesticide Bylaw Stats](#)
[Opinion Poll Results](#)

News:

March 4, 2009



Ontario government passes strong regulations supporting the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act

The Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa is pleased with regulations passed by the Ontario government today to support provincial legislation banning the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides. Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban takes effect April 22, 2009. Over 250 products will be banned for sale and more than 95 pesticide ingredients will be banned for cosmetic uses (see list [here](#)). The Ministry of Environment's press release can be viewed [here](#).

Supporting quotes:

1. [David Suzuki Foundation](#) - *"We congratulate the Ontario government for raising the bar on protecting people and the environment from needless pesticide exposure," says Dr. David Suzuki*
2. [Pesticide Free Ontario](#) - *"With this legislation, the Ontario Liberal government is showing that it clearly understands the principles of a green economy – that you can protect both health and the environment and create jobs,"*
3. [Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario](#) - *"The Premier and the Minister of the Environment are to be congratulated for heeding the call of health and environmental organizations. Pesticides are poisonous and children right across the province will be better protected thanks to this announcement"*
4. [Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment](#) - *" Ontario is a true leader. There is nothing like this anywhere else on the continent," says CAPE Executive Director Gideon Forman*
5. [Canadian Environmental Law Association](#) - *they are "celebrating passage of Ontario 's bold and visionary leadership in banning the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes"*
6. [Canadian Cancer Society](#) - *"We congratulate the Ontario government for passing*

regulations that will provide all Ontarians with strong protection from the health risks associated with the use of cosmetic pesticides..."



2008 Year In Review

Ottawa lags while 15 more municipalities lead with pesticide bylaws in 2008

Case Western Reserve University environmental history professor Ted Steinberg and author of "[American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn](#)," said there is "an anti-perfect lawn revolution under way in Canada. "

As of December 31, 2008, there are [152 pesticide by-laws across Canada](#), with Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and Vancouver leading the way. Calgary also has a draft pesticide bylaw on the books. There are over 15.4 million Canadians, or 48.9% of Canada's total population (based on the 2006 Census), benefiting from enhanced protection from unwanted exposure to synthetic lawn and garden pesticides. On November 17, 2008, the City of Thunder Bay became municipality #152 to adopt a pesticide by-law in Canada (and #35 in Ontario). The vote at city council was unanimous.

In Ontario the number of municipalities that have adopted private property pesticide bylaws has increased by seven to thirty-five (35) despite the pending province-wide pesticide ban. Meanwhile Ottawa continues to sit in the back of the bus and let others lead. Ottawa's image as a community health prevention leader has totally tanked on this specific issue.

Those from outside of Ottawa seem to agree that Ottawa City Council is certainly not leading the pack on pesticides. Halifax Councillor, Bob Harvey offered the following comment in a CBC interview with Rita Celli on October 27, 2005 about Ottawa's failed attempt to adopt a pesticide by-law:

"Well I was surprised and dismayed by that I didn't realize until today. I'd assume that five years after we went through this debate and discussion that, you know, enlightenment would have spread to the nation's capital."

A headline in *The News EMC (Ottawa West)* on September 27, 2007 read:

'Suzuki lambastes Ottawa on pesticides. Says mayor 'so ignorant he doesn't know he's ignorant'.

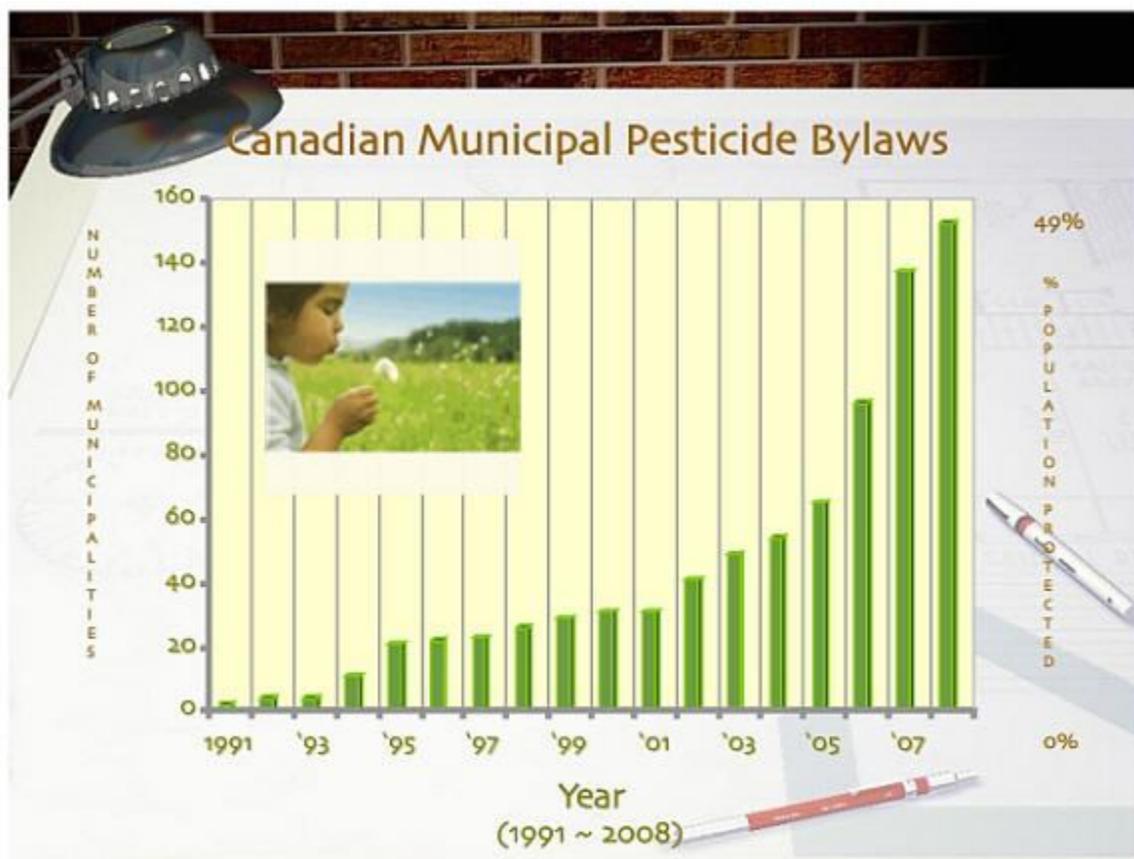
The headline referred to the fact that Ottawa City Council has yet to follow in the footsteps of more than 100 other Canadian municipalities that have banned cosmetic pesticide use and David Suzuki's response, having meet with Mr. O'Brien to discuss this issue, to an audience of over 1000 attending the Canadian Public Health Association annual conference in Ottawa.

Dr. Robin Walker, former Medical Director of Critical Care at the Children's Hospital of

Eastern Ontario had this to say about Ottawa's fumbling on pesticides:

"City Council accepted industry propaganda over medical science and once again abrogated their responsibility to protect the health of all the citizens of Ottawa. The majority of our City Council today chose political expediency over what is right for the community, and put lawns at the top of their priorities and kids at the bottom."
 Read press release [here](#)

The following chart summarizes the rapid increase in the number of municipal pesticide bylaws across Canada (click on chart for full size image):



Archives: [2008 News](#)

Web CHO

CHO Homepage

To contact CHO, please E-mail: healthyottawa at hotmail dot com

CHO is hosted by  Community Web.

Last updated: March 05, 2009

Legal Notice



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons License](#).

Best sites 