

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Last updated at 8:35 AM on 07/06/10

Do you want facts with that?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Telegram

Concerning the letter "Duelling pesticide positions," (June 1).

There are some inaccuracies in this letter. They need to be cleared up so we can have a rational and useful debate on pesticides.

The letter-writer claims there is no direct link between pesticides and cancer. Yet doctors writing in the scientific journal Paediatrics and Child Health (April, 2006) had this to say about the common pesticide 2,4-D: 2,4-D can be persuasively linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems.

The letter-writer claims New Brunswick has not implemented a pesticide ban. But the New Brunswick Environment Department has posted the following on its website: As of Dec. 16, 2009, the sale and use of more than 240 over-the-counter lawn care pesticide products are banned in the province of New Brunswick. The use of lawn care products for domestic lawns containing 2,4-D is also banned.

As an organization representing over 4,700 doctors and concerned citizens, we urge everyone involved in the pesticide debate to stick to the facts and the science.

Based on this, we urge Newfoundland and Labrador to prohibit all non-essential pesticide use, including on public and private lawns, gardens, sports fields and golf courses.

Gideon Forman

executive director

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

www.cape.ca

07/06/10



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DB from NL writes: What facts? Neither side in this debate wants to produce any facts. Both sides like to use unreliable words like 'linked' which provides very little information, especially to anyone with even a basic knowledge of statistics. 'Links' can be measured to determine their strength. Worse is the term 'direct link' which could only be determined through controlled experiments - anyone want to be a guinea pig? I've given up asking for the facts. The most I ever got was a ban promoter telling me to go find it myself.

Posted 07/06/2010 at 9:30 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

John Smith from NL writes: DB these studies are even more misleading when you find that they have mice in cages that are being doused with this stuff on a daily basis. Equivalent to a human bathing in a bath of pure pesticide every day. Then after the poor old mice finally gets cancer from these repeated, daily blasts of chemical, it finally keels over. We should be much more concerned with the tons of chemicals placed on, and in our fruits and vegetables, however according to the tree huggers it's OK to eat this stuff because it is necessary to have it for the cultivation of the vast food supply.

Posted 07/06/2010 at 3:28 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

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