

## More prohibitions are necessary



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Editor:

Re 'Pesticides important tools' (The Guardian, Jan. 24, 2012):

There's a great deal of science demonstrating that people exposed to pesticides are at higher risk for cancer. The Ontario College of Family Physicians, for example, published a ground-breaking study showing pesticide exposure is associated with brain cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The college also found that children exposed in particular to lawn and garden pesticides are at increased risk for leukemia. Another scientific study, published by doctors in the prestigious journal Paediatrics and Child Health, found the common weed-killer 2,4-D "can be persuasively linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems."

The good news is governments can protect residents from these poisons by passing provincewide lawn pesticide bans. This has already been done in Atlantic Canada but, tragically, many provinces in the west still do not have prohibitions in place. The situation needs to be remedied at once.

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