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In The News

at 14:21 on May 30, 2011, EDT.

Environmentalists, chemical company claim victory in NAFTA fight over Quebec ban

The Canadian Press

MONTREAL - Environmentalists and a chemical company are both claiming victory in the settlement of a NAFTA dispute that challenged Quebec's pesticide ban.

Environmentalists say the settlement reinforces the right of municipalities and provinces to ban pesticides.

The company, Dow AgroSciences, got no compensation in the settlement which was reached on May 25.

But Brenda Harris, a spokeswoman for Dow, says the company is happy Quebec acknowledged that its weed killer doesn't pose unacceptable risks to people or the environment if it's used properly.

The company had based its claim in part on a Health Canada ruling in 2008 that 2, 4-D can be used safely when label directions are followed.

It said the Quebec ban violated Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and launched a challenge against the federal government.

That section allows investors of one NAFTA country to sue the government of another NAFTA country for actions they think are hurting them or their investments.

Content Provided By Canadian Press.



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