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Weed Out Pesticides!

Do you use pesticides in an attempt to improve the appearance of your lawns or garden? Think again.

Researchers have found that pesticides can be associated with serious illnesses, including cancer, damage to the immune system, and neurological problems. Children are particularly vulnerable.

With safer alternatives available, this is a risk we can – and should – do without! That's why the David Suzuki Foundation is working to ban both the sale and use of so-called "cosmetic" pesticides.

Ontario and Quebec have introduced provincial bans, and PEI is moving in this direction. There is great promise for similar bans across the country.



[Voice your support now](#)

With provinces leading the way, the federal government should follow! [Read the David Suzuki Foundation's statement](#) (.doc) calling on Parliament to end the sale of lawn and garden pesticides Canada-wide (April 21, 2009)

Read the David Suzuki Foundation report [Pesticide Free? Oui!](#) to learn about how to develop strong provincial pesticide regulations.

Province by Province Updates

Quebec

The Province of Quebec was the first to ban lawn and garden pesticides. Now, Dow AgroSciences LLC ("Dow") intends to challenge the Quebec ban under Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The David Suzuki Foundation and Équiterre are working with legal counsel at Ecojustice to vigorously defend Quebec's ban on lawn chemicals.

Read the briefing on the Dow case: [English](#) [French](#)

Ontario

Victory! Starting April 22, 2009, more than 250 chemical pesticide products will be banned in Ontario, Canada's most populous province. The ban eliminates an unnecessary source of chemical exposure and will benefit both human health and the environment. [Read the press release](#).

The Ontario ban would never have happened without thousands of others like you, who used the David Suzuki Foundation website to tell government officials the places we live, work and play should be free of needless chemical pesticides.

Your actions go beyond making Ontario the second province in Canada to ban lawn and garden pesticides. Now is the time to [grab this momentum to ban pesticides in other provinces](#).

Read [highlights from the new regulations](#). [See details](#) on the Ontario Ministry of Environment web site.

Prince Edward Island

The government of Prince Edward Island has announced it's intent to ban lawn and garden pesticides, starting in 2010. [Send a note](#) of congratulations, and encouragement to make the ban a strong one.

New Brunswick

First the good news: A [public consultation](#) in the fall of 2008 found widespread public support for provincial prohibitions on landscaping pesticides. Unfortunately, the government didn't get the message. In June, 2009, New Brunswick announced a ban on the use of 2,4-D lawn pesticides and over-the-counter sales of 200 broadcast and spray pesticides. The fine print, though, is that lawn care companies will still be allowed to use pesticides, "spot application" products will still be for sale, and [golf courses](#), public parks, school yards, and hospital grounds are exempt from the ban!

Only herbicides containing the active ingredient 2,4-D will be completely banned on private lawns. Why the narrow focus? Quebec has outlawed 2,4-D AND 11 other lawn chemicals. The Ontario ban extends to 81 active ingredients.

[Send a note to lawmakers asking them to strengthen the ban in New Brunswick to match the leading standards in other provinces.](#)

David Coon of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick says, "I don't know why we should accept second best when it comes to protecting children's health and the environment." [Read](#) the full press from the Conservation Council (June 18, 2009).

[Read](#) the David Suzuki Foundation input to the New Brunswick consultation.

British Columbia

The BC government opened the current legislative session with an announcement that, "British Columbians will be consulted on new statutory protections to further safeguard our environment from cosmetic chemical pesticides" ([Speech from the Throne](#), August 25, 2009). Missing from this announcement is any indication of government support for a ban on lawn and garden pesticides.

Join the David Suzuki Foundation in asking [BC lawmakers to show leadership on this issue](#). [Let them know that you want a ban on lawn and garden pesticides](#).

Momentum for a BC ban is building. Last fall a wide range of BC mayors and councillors passed a collective resolution asking the provincial government to implement a province-wide ban. The support was overwhelming--only a single delegate voted against the motion. [Read this CBC news article](#) for more.

Read the [joint statement](#) and [press release](#) (.doc) from the David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, Toxic-Free Canada, and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment in support a province-wide ban on needless pesticides (April 20th, 2009)

Alberta

Alberta has announced that "weed and feed" pesticide-fertilizer mixtures will be banned starting in 2010. This is a step in the right direction, but the government is so far resisting a more comprehensive ban.

[Send a note to the Alberta environment minister and Premier now](#), letting them know that it's time for a comprehensive province-wide ban.

Provincial Pesticide Bans Work!

Quebec is currently the only province to restrict cosmetic pesticide sales (the Ontario ban will not be in place until 2009). Statistics Canada found that the number of households using pesticides in Quebec decreased by 50% between 1994 and 2005. Nationwide, pesticide use dipped by only 2 percentage points over the same period. [Click here](#) for summary

Read [Pesticide Free? Oui!](#) to learn about how Quebec's cosmetic pesticide legislation works, how it can be improved, and how it can be a model for pesticide laws in other provinces.

The truth behind industry generated myths about [provincial pesticide bans](#).

Background Information:

[David Suzuki explains](#) why his garden is free of chemical pesticides.

[Tips to make your own garden pesticide free](#).

View the David Suzuki Foundation's [submission to committee](#) (June 9th, 2008) and [briefing note](#) (June 16th, 2008) outlining our concerns.

The David Suzuki Foundation's [comments on Ontario's draft legislation](#). (May 22nd, 2008).

The David Suzuki Foundation's [comments on Ontario's cosmetic pesticide ban](#) to the provincial government. (Jan 31st, 2008)

[Joint statement of 15 health and environmental organizations](#) in support of Ontario-wide ban. (January, 2008)

[Northern Exposure: Acute Pesticide Poisonings in Canada](#). This study published by the David Suzuki Foundation reports 1600 cases of acute pesticide poisoning in Ontario in a year, more than half involving children under the age of six.

[Pesticide Literature Review](#) by the Ontario College of Family Physicians: a systematic review of human health effects associated with chronic pesticide exposure.

Fifty pesticides registered for use in Canada are banned in other countries. Read more in [The Food We Eat](#).

News releases--

- April 21, 2009 - [Parliament should end the use and sale of lawn and garden pesticides Canada-wide](#) (.doc)
- April 20, 2009 - [BC Health and Environmental Powerhouses Call for Cosmetic Pesticide Ban as Election Campaign Ramps Up](#) (.doc)
- [April 22nd, 2008](#)
- [June 18th, 2008](#)

Archive

- Debugging the Ban: David Suzuki Foundation recommendations on [which chemicals Ontario should include in its cosmetic pesticide ban](#) (August 2008)
- More information and the draft regulation is posted on the [Environmental Registry](#).
- [Read our highlights of Ontario's draft regulations](#).
- [Read our full submission](#) to the Environmental Registry