



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

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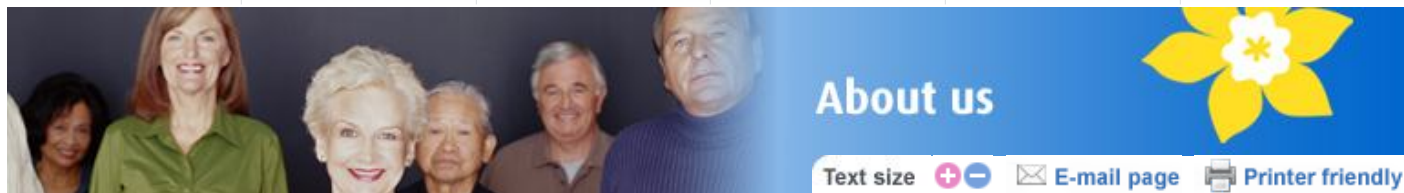
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New poll reveals Maritimers support ban of cosmetic pesticides

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14 January 2008
CHARLOTTETOWN -

It's clear that many of us are concerned about pesticides and the effect they may have on human health," says Dawn Binns, Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Society in Prince Edward Island. "These polling results show that Maritimers support our call to government for more stringent regulations against exposure to these potentially harmful chemicals."

The poll, conducted by Corporate Research Associates Inc. in November 2007, surveyed 1,101 households in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Of those surveyed, 69 per cent support a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides, and 79 per cent believe pesticides used for lawn and garden maintenance have the potential to pose a health risk to people.

According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), pesticides contain substances that are known, probable or possible carcinogens. But while scientific evidence linking exposure to pesticides with increased cancer risk is inconclusive, it is suggestive and growing. The Canadian Cancer Society believes that in light of the potential for harm and the lack of health benefit, pesticide bans should be implemented for residential lawns and gardens, as well as recreational spaces, such as parks and golf courses.

Currently, four communities in New Brunswick have pesticide bans, including Shediac, Caraquet, Sackville and St. Andrew's; in Nova Scotia the Halifax Regional Municipality has issued a ban.

"Cosmetic pesticide use is a major concern for Maritimers and we certainly urge our provincial and municipal governments to respond to these concerns," says Binns. "This is a health and safety issue, here in the Maritimes and across the country."

In Prince Edward Island the Legislative Assembly is currently examining the feasibility of an Island-wide ban of cosmetic pesticides through public hearings.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is to eradicate cancer and to improve the quality of life of people living with cancer. When you want to know more about cancer, visit our website www.cancer.ca or call our toll-free, bilingual Cancer Information Service at 1 888 939-3333.

The NCIC's mission is to undertake and support cancer research and related programs in Canada that will lead to the reduction of the incidence, morbidity and mortality from cancer. The NCIC receives its funding from the Canadian

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANCER?
Ask us
1 888 939-3333
info@cis.cancer.ca

Cancer Society (75 per cent) and The Terry Fox Foundation (25 per cent).

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For more information, please contact:

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