

# Quebec Prohibition of Pest Control Products.

## Part 4.

16/04/2009

### ***Force of Nature Media Report : The Environmental Movement in the Media from an Independent Perspective.***

Force of Nature was launched for continuous transmission on the Internet on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. It is a series of e-newsletters destined for the Green Space Industry, the environmental movement, politicians, municipalities, and the media, nation-wide across Canada, and parts of the United States. Force of Nature is produced in two parts. First, The Media Report itself that reports on the current events affecting the future of the Green Space Industry. Second, Independent Perspective, which is a running commentary, sometimes also of a more technical in nature.

Force of Nature is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. The opinions expressed in these e-newsletters, even though from an independent perspective, may not reflect those of everyone in the Green Space Industry, or Mr. Gathercole's many associates. Be warned ! Mr. Gathercole and his team may sometimes be very irreverent and fearless with these e-newsletters.

William H. Gathercole holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Guelph, and another pure and applied science degree from McGill University. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the Green Space Industry, including public affairs, personal safety, and environmental issues. Mr. Gathercole has been a consultant and instructor for decades. Mr. Gathercole has been following the evolution of environmental terrorism for over a quarter-century. His involvement in environmental issues reached a fevered pitch in the 1990s, when he orchestrated, with others, legal action against unethical and excessive municipal regulations restricting the use of pest control products. ( i.e. the Town of Hudson. ) Although he can be accused of being anti-environment-movement, he is, in fact, simply a strong advocate for the Green Space Industry. However, this position has not precluded him from criticizing the industry itself. Nonetheless, his vast knowledge of our long journey with environmental issues is undeniable. ( Hopefully ! )

For many years, Mr. Gathercole has been a contributing columnist for TURF & Recreation Magazine, Canada's Turf and Grounds Maintenance Authority.

All pictures contained in Force of Nature were found somewhere on the Internet. We believe that they are in the public domain, as either educational tools, industry archives, promotional stills, publicity photos, or press media stock.

Information presented in Force of Nature has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader. The events, characters, companies, and organizations, depicted in this document are not always fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, may not be coincidental.

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### Notable quotations.

<< **C**itizens in every corner of the country are outraged that a U.S.-based transnational firm [ Dow ] would attack Quebec's environmental laws. >>

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<< **C**APE will be delivering to Parliament the first 10,000 petitions collected as part of its "Petition of Pesticides" campaign. The initiative calls for a ban on toxic lawn chemicals right across the country. >>



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## Groups praise Ontario for remaining firm — Doctors, Citizens Blast NAFTA over Pesticide Ban

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November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### *Media Release*



OTTAWA, Nov. 6 / CNW Telbec / -- **The Council of Canadians** and the **Canadian Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)** today condemned **NAFTA** for letting chemical giant Dow sue Canada over a **Quebec** pesticide ban.

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*" Citizens in every corner of the country are outraged that a U.S.-based transnational firm would attack Quebec's environmental laws, "* says **Council of Canadians** board member and trade expert, **Steven Shrybman**.

**CAPE** Executive Director, **Gideon Forman**, says pesticide bans such as **Quebec's** reduce the use of lawn chemicals significantly and protect people from serious illness. *" Exposure to some of these poisons puts a person at risk for cancer and neurological disease, "* says **Forman**. *" But Quebec's ban helped cut pesticide use by 50% -- a far greater reduction than anywhere else in Canada. "*



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The **Council of Canadians** is calling on Ottawa to renegotiate **NAFTA** with the Obama Administration so the deal forbids companies from suing governments. *"The current NAFTA formulation is wholly unacceptable,"* says **Shrybman**. *"It puts corporate profit ahead of human and environmental health."*

**Forman** praised the Ontario Government -- which is putting finishing touches on pesticide restrictions of its own -- for not backing down. *"There's huge pressure on Premier McGuinty to drop this prohibition on lawn pesticides. But to his credit, he's going ahead with a ban."*

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On Monday, **CAPE** will be delivering to Parliament the first 10,000 petitions collected as part of its "Petition of Pesticides" campaign. The initiative calls for a ban on toxic lawn chemicals right across the country."

For further information :

Dylan Penner, Media Officer, **The Council of Canadians**, (613) 795-8685;

**Gideon Forman**, Executive Director, **CAPE**, (416) 306-2273

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### Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

#### Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (C.A.P.E.).

C.A.P.E. has mandated itself to educating health care professionals and the public in matters of « *POLITICIZED SCIENCE* » and environmental public policy. Children's environmental health is reportedly its priority issue.



C.A.P.E. is potentially a multi-million dollar money-making machine.

C.A.P.E. currently has nearly **3000 members**. The cost of a C.A.P.E. membership is **one hundred dollars** per year. Its operating budget appears to be less than **1,000,000 dollars** per year with about a dozen employees.

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Coincidentally, C.A.P.E. has been provided with large sums of money by private and public funding organizations during the period of time covering the public debates on the Toronto prohibition and the Ontario prohibition (2001–2008). It is clear that the funds helped pay for infra-structures that were used to influence public policy concerning the Ontario « *COSMETIC PESTICIDES BAN ACT* ».

C.A.P.E. has been massively funded by « *GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO* » — **55,000 dollars** for the period 2002–2003. **200,000 dollars** over a three-year period (beginning in 2006–2007) to strengthen C.A.P.E. operations across Ontario, and to increase its membership and long-term sustainability. In other words, the « *GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO* » has been discretely supplying C.A.P.E. with the ammunition that it needed to conspire to prohibit pest control products.

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### C.A.P.E. objectives.

Many environmental groups, like C.A.P.E., have been created for concealing the views of supposedly moderate professionals, such as physicians and health care workers in Ontario, in an attempt to mask their extremist views. This is evident since one of the co-founders of C.A.P.E. later became the first leader of « *GREEN PARTY OF CANADA* ».

C.A.P.E. has aspirations of becoming a « *NATIONAL* » organization. The issues surrounding pest control products have provided C.A.P.E. with an unbelievable opportunity establish itself outside of Ontario, to recruit new members, and to attract more money and more power. The leaders of C.A.P.E. want to expand their lucrative operation, ostensibly regardless of the cost to those industries that they conspire against. This may be deemed as the ultimate form of greed or depraved indifference.

The principal interests and agendas of the C.A.P.E. can be summarized in the two following categories. —

- One. The acquisition and retention of massive amounts of money from government grants, the private sector, and individual memberships. When given some power and money, many at C.A.P.E. have felt compelled to impose their personal life style choices on society. They may do so by mis-representing the existing facts, and hence gleefully avoiding « *SOUND SCIENCE* » in order to promote their cause.

- Two. The acquisition and retention of fame, celebrity, and power by many at C.A.P.E. who are narrow-minded and little people who are laymen, and do not even have high education, or possess a degree of any kind. These layman feel compelled to make public appearances in laboratory coats. Some present themselves as medical doctors, or as experts in the « *GREEN SPACE INDUSTRY* ». Let's just say that some of them « *HAVE ISSUES* ».

There can be no doubt that C.A.P.E. has become a highly profitable business managed by very highly ambitious people. It is potentially becoming a multi-million dollar money-making machine. In addition, C.A.P.E. does not pay taxes because of its charitable or non-profit status. Moreover, many individual donations may be accepted in cash that may potentially become undisclosed revenue. C.A.P.E. is a business-person's dream-come-true.

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Notable quotation.

*<< The research on [ 2,4-D ] was done by the industry, and the data can be manipulated. >>*

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Edith Smeesters

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**DO WE HEAR THE TERM  
« CONSPIRACY THEORY »  
OR « PARANOIA » ?**



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### City adds support to pesticide foes

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March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Anne Sutherland



Council motion backs group in fight against chemical firm's **NAFTA** challenge.

The city of Montreal has added its support to a group urging the federal government to resist a **NAFTA** challenge that aims to override provincial pesticide laws.

**Équiterre**, an environmental group, and 40 community organizations are up against **Dow AgroSciences**, a unit of the U.S. giant Dow Chemical. **Dow AgroSciences** makes a weed-killer called **2,4-D**, which is banned in **Quebec**.



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Since 2003, the province has had one of the toughest laws in North America limiting pesticide use. Also, the **city of Montreal** passed a bylaw in 2004 that bans the use of cosmetic pesticides.

In August, **Dow AgroSciences** filed a notice of intent against the Canadian government, contending the ban on **2,4-D** violates the **North American Free Trade Agreement**. The notice is a first step before filing a formal claim to arbitration. The company estimates damages to be at least **\$2 million**.





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*" Our notice of intent is meant to ensure important public policy decisions are based on scientific evidence, a clear set of principles and managed in a transparent framework, "* said Brenda Harris, **Dow Agro-Sciences** regulatory and government affairs manager for Canada.

Dow asserts the ban prohibits a product that has not been proven unsafe.

**Équiterre** spokesperson **Edith Smeeters** disagrees.



*"The research on (2,4-D) was done by the industry, and the data can be manipulated,"* said **Smeeters**, a biologist.



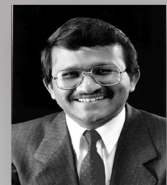
*" Our research shows 2,4-D is a risk to the immune system, the reproductive system and the endocrine system. "*

*" Children sit on the lawn, they eat the grass. This pesticide is dangerous to their health. "*

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Montreal city council adopted a resolution Feb. 23 in support of **Équiterre**.

If the federal government does not fight Dow on this matter, the results could have ramifications across the country, said **Alan DeSousa**, the Montreal executive committee member in charge of sustainable development.



When the **town of Hudson** proposed a bylaw banning pesticides in 1991, the case went to the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2001, the top court upheld the power of municipalities to restrict pesticide use in their communities.

*" No one dies from walking on a lawn, but the effects 30 years down the line are what we are concerned about, "* **Smeesters** said. *" Health concerns must trump business. "*

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## Background Information from a Independent Perspective.

### Équiterre, Suzuki's ambassador in Quebec.



« *ÉQUITERRE* » is a non-profit and charitable group established in the « *PROVINCE OF QUEBEC* » in 1992-1993 whose mission is to advocate individual and collective choices in the domain of « *POLITICIZED SCIENCE* ».

« *ÉQUITERRE* » is very closely associated with « *DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION* ». It acts an **ambassador** and **public policy shield** organization for « *DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION* » in Quebec.



On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, « *ÉQUITERRE* » issued a press release with the following statements ...

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**<< Fin de la vente de pesticides.  
Équiterre se réjouit de la décision de Rona,  
Canadian Tire, Home Depot et Loblaws. >>**

The end of pesticide sales. « *ÉQUITERRE* » rejoiced at the decision of major consumer stores that ceased selling all types of pest control products. This was a project dear to the heart of David Suzuki. By the way, the national headquarters for Rona is in Quebec, and undoubtedly was pressured by both « *ÉQUITERRE* » and Suzuki.

« *ÉQUITERRE* » is an affiliated member with the ultra-militant « *PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK NORTH AMERICA* » (P.A.N.N.A.), along with « *CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* » (C.A.P.E.) and « *CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION* » (C.E.L.A.).

« *ÉQUITERRE* » operates a **public affairs shield** organization called « *CANADIAN ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES* » (C.A.P.).

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### Équiterre funding.

Like Suzuki, « *ÉQUITERRE* » is heavily funded by « *MCCONNELL INITIATIVES* ».

« *THE J. W. MCCONNELL FAMILY FOUNDATION* » is known for its work under the name « *MCCONNELL INITIATIVES* ».

#### THE J.W. MCCONNELL FAMILY FOUNDATION

In the period 2002–2006, through a structured capacity-building program, « *THE J. W. MCCONNELL FAMILY FOUNDATION* » assisted, to the tune of **1.47 million dollars**, five environmental organizations, which included « *ÉQUITERRE* », to improve their professionalism, diversify funding, enhance communications and develop effective programs to engage Canadians. One of the goals of the program was to contribute to the environmental sector's ability to « *HELP* » Canadians understand and address environmental challenges. « *SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA* » and « *CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY* » (C.E.L.A.) participated as observers, but were likely remunerated for their time.

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In the period 2003–2006, through a structured capacity-building program, « *THE J. W. MCCONNELL FAMILY FOUNDATION* » supported regional and national activities aimed at promoting individual action and community-level engagement, by linking « *POLITICIZED SCIENCE* » to citizen action, engaging employers and employees, through active transportation and through activities designed to change behaviour linked to climate change. One of the goals was to augment the range of activities and accelerate the rate at which Canadians « *ADOPT* » sustainable choices. The total amount of the initiative was **930,000 dollars**. There were eight grant beneficiaries, two of whom we know already. — « *DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION* » with its « *NATURE CHALLENGE* », an ongoing campaign to inform and engage citizens in making a personal commitment to changes in ten areas of their lives. « *ÉQUITERRE* » with is « *LE DÉFI ÉQUITERRE* », inspired by « *NATURE CHALLENGE* », which adapted and launched a web-based challenge to the citizens of Quebec in 2004.



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*<< 2,4-D meets Canada's strict health and safety standards, and as such is acceptable for continued registration in Canada. >>*

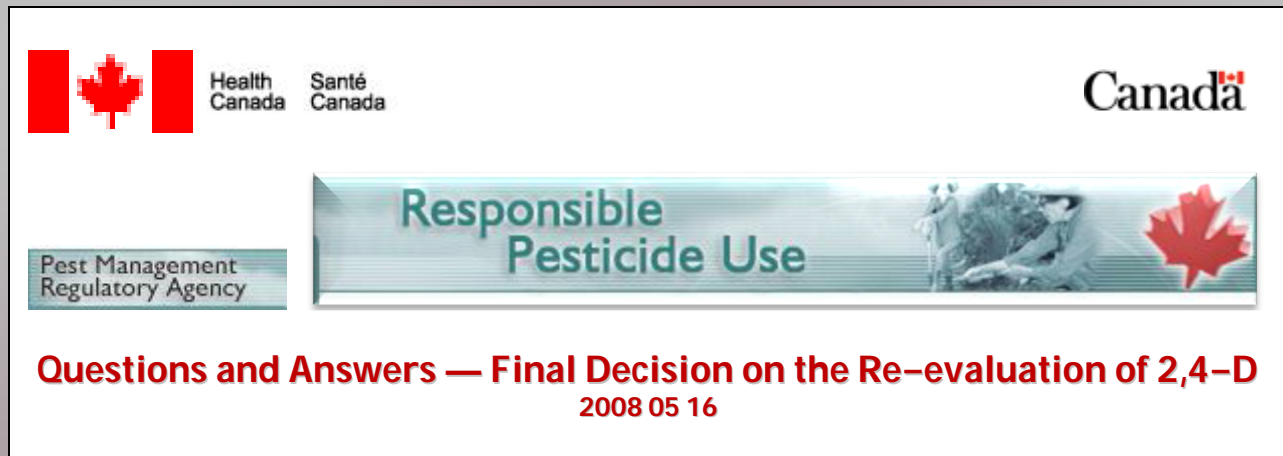
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*<< The decision on 2,4-D is consistent with that of regulators in other [ ... ] countries. >>*

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Health Canada Santé Canada

Canada

Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Responsible Pesticide Use

**Questions and Answers — Final Decision on the Re-evaluation of 2,4-D**  
2008 05 16

Following extensive consultation and scientific review using the most current scientific methods, the **Health Canada** Pest Management Regulatory Agency has determined that **2,4-D meets Canada's strict health and safety standards, and as such is acceptable for continued registration in Canada.**

The decision on **2,4-D** is consistent with that of regulators in other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), New Zealand and countries of the European Union, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO).

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**Health Canada** is aware of public concern regarding domestic uses of pesticides on lawns and gardens (often referred to as "**cosmetic**" or aesthetic uses).

**How does Health Canada's re-evaluation assessment compare with that of other countries ?**

Our review concurs with the findings of regulators in other OECD countries, including the European Union, New Zealand, and the World Health Organization.

Pesticides are regulated by Health Canada under the Pest Control Products Act, and are among the most stringently regulated substances in Canada. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (P.M.R.A.) is the branch of Health Canada that administers the Act on behalf of the Minister of Health. The primary objective of the P.M.R.A. is to prevent unacceptable risks to people and the environment from the use of pesticides.

*The villagers of F.O.N.  
are not happy ...*



*... an environmental  
monster has been created  
... and they fear that  
it will destroy them.*



### ***Force of Nature Media Report***

The following titles are currently available.

(Or, will be available in the near future.)

- Alberta Prohibition.
- British Columbia Prohibition.
- Burnaby B.C. Prohibition.
- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.
- David Suzuki Foundation.
- Death and the Environmental Movement.
- Golf and Landscape Trade Industries.
- Kazimiera Jean Cottam.
- Kelowna B.C. Prohibition.
- New Brunswick Prohibition.
- Ontario Prohibition.
- Organic Fertilizers.
- Pets and Lawn Care Chemicals.
- Prince Edward Island Prohibition.
- Quebec Prohibition.
- Richmond B.C. Prohibition.
- Saint Catharines Ontario.
- Salmon Arm B.C. Prohibition.
- The Failure of Integrated Pest Management.
- The Wisdom of the Solomons.
- Victoria B.C.
- White Rock B.C. Prohibition.
- Wisconsin Prohibition.

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