

Timeline on Pesticide By-laws & Non-essential Use in Canada

June 28, 2006 - The 5th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada Hudson Decision

June 28, 2006 - New Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) will come into force on June 28, 2006

June 28, 2006 - Deadline for public comment on the Proposed Acceptability for Continuing Registration for the re-evaluation of the lawn and turf uses of the herbicide (4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy) Acetic Acid (MCPA) in Canada.

June 12, 2006 - The City of London adopts a pesticide bylaw restricting non-essential use on lawns and gardens with a 13 to 6 vote in favor becoming the 117th municipality in Canada to do so.

June 7, 2006 - Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency's relationship with the pesticide industry is questioned in a Globe and Mail's investigative report involving the circulation of an internal document concerning the safety of 2,4-D.

<http://ctv.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060607.gtherbicide07/tech/Technology/techBN/ctv-technology>

May 16, 2006 - An NDP opposition motion concerning restrictions on non-essential pesticide use designed to protect the health of all Canadians from the unwanted exposure to synthetic lawn toxins fails to receive the sufficient support of the current federal government. Former Prime Minister Paul Martin, former Minister of Health, The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh and the former Minister of State, (Public Health), The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett all vote in support of the NDP motion. The breakdown by party of the vote is as follows:

Yeas	Nays	Party
28	0	New Democratic Party
59	32	Liberal
0	124	Conservative
0	50	Bloc Québécois
0	1	Independent
87	207	

http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/chambus/house/debates/024_2006-05-16/HAN024-E.htm

April 24, 2006 - Pat Martin MP for Winnipeg Centre introduced Bill C-225, an act to amend the Pest Control Products Act (prohibition of use of chemical pesticides for non-essential purposes). This is the fifth time that such a Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons since 1999.

http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/private/C-225/C-225_1/C-225_cover-E.html

April 24, 2006 - A report in the 'Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health (Volume 11, Number 4, April 2006)' directly contradicts a recent re-assessment of 2,4-D by the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency, which found the product does not cause cancer and can be used safely on lawns if directions are followed. The new study of the most commonly used weed killer on Canadian lawns and gardens - known only as 2,4-D - is "persuasively linked" to cancer, neurological impairment and reproductive problems. "The 2,4-D assessment (by the federal agency) does not approach standards for ethics, rigour or transparency in medical research," said medical writer Meg Sears, speaking for co-authors Robin Walker, Richard van der Jagt and Paul Claman.

April 3, 2006 - The final stage of the Pesticide Code of Quebec has come into effect. This means that 20 pesticide active ingredients, including 2,4-D, are banned for sale and use for lawns across the Province of Quebec. These ingredients are contained in 210 products that will be prohibited for sale and use for lawns all across Quebec.

<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/pesticides/permis-en/code-gestion-en/code-enbref.htm>

November 17, 2005 - The Supreme Court of Canada rejects CropLife Canada's challenge of Toronto's Pesticide By-law. There is no further legal avenue for Crop Life to challenge Toronto's pesticide by-law.

http://scc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/news_release/2005/05-11-17.3.wpd/05-11-17.3.wpd.html

September 22, 2005 - Dr. Karen Dodds, Executive Director of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency addresses CropLife Canada's 'GrowCanada' conference stating that: "I'm a firm believer in priorities," she said. "Yes, we're a regulator and yes, we have cost recovery, but first and foremost we're public servants and we provide advice and recommendations that serve the public good." An examination of the agency's 2003-2008 strategic plan pinpointed three primary objectives which Dr. Dodds described as "solid and enduring for the agency: to protect human health and the environment, to build an open, transparent regulatory system and to make sure that the agency is a workplace of choice so we have that strength internally."

May 16, 2005 - Deadline passed with no federal action on the House of Commons Committee recommendation to phase out of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes" on lawns and gardens across Canada

April 11, 2005 - The Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health found the PMRA headline concerning 2,4-D on February 21, 2005 to be quite misleading to the public and recommended that a second press release be issued to correct the false impression. The Executive Director of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency responded to the Chair stating: "We are working to clarify our communications" and will make this available to the public. As of June 25, 2006 no such clarification on the misleading statements by the PMRA concerning the safety of 2,4-D has been issued to the public that I am aware of.

February 21, 2005 - Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) issues a press release with the headline "The PMRA Determines that 2,4-D Can Be Used Safely on Lawns and Turf".

October 12, 2004 - Mr. Gary Schellenberger MP for Perth -Wellington presented a petition concerning cosmetic pesticide use on behalf of his constituents. Since 2001, twenty-four (24) similar petitions have been presented and read by MPs in the House of Commons on the use of chemical pesticides in our communities across Canada. They have called upon Parliament to enact an immediate moratorium on the cosmetic use of pesticides until they can be scientifically proven safe for use.

April 23, 2004 - The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), which represents more than 6,700 family physicians in Ontario, has completed Canada's most comprehensive review on pesticides. Their findings reveal consistent links to serious illnesses such as cancer, reproductive problems and neurological diseases, among others. The study also shows that children are particularly vulnerable to pesticides.

<http://www.ocfp.on.ca/English/OCFP/Communications/CurrentIssues/Pesticides/default.asp?s=1>

New Pest Control Products Act

December 23, 2002 - A Health Canada press release quotes the Minister of Health stating that "The new Pest Control Products Act modernizes Canadian regulation of pesticides and will better safeguard Canadians - especially children - from health and environmental risks." Furthermore the new Act provides "the Minister with the authority to remove pesticides from the market if required data are not supplied." The release also states that: "the new PCPA will enhance public confidence, here and abroad, that Canadian agri-food, forestry and other products are safe."

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2002/2002_84.htm

December 12, 2002 - The new Pest Control Products Act (2002) receives Royal Assent.

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/pcpa-e.html>

May 21, 2002 - Mr. Basil Stapleton, Legal Counsel for the Department of Justice stated to the Standing Committee on Health reviewing the proposed Pest Control Products Act that the bill entails "a precautionary approach to the decision-making on registrations, it in fact uses a precautionary approach that provides a much higher level of protection to health, safety, and the environment than, for example, would the use of the Rio declaration approach."

June 28, 2001 - The Supreme Court of Canada, was dismissed Chemlawn and Spraytech challenge against the Town of Hudson, Quebec. In an unanimous judgement, Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dube wrote for the court "It is reasonable to conclude that the town bylaw's purpose is to minimize the use of allegedly harmful pesticides in order to promote the health of its inhabitants". She also stated "Permitting the town to regulate pesticide use is consistent with international law's 'precautionary principle,' which states it is better to be overly cautious than to create a potential risk to the environment."

The judges noted that Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Northwest Territories and Yukon all have similar provisions enabling their municipalities to make such bylaws.

http://scc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/news_release/2001/01-06-28.3/01-06-28.3.html

May 16, 2000 - A House of Commons Committee report titled 'Making The Right Choice for The Protection of Health and the Environment' called for a "five-year phase out of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes" on lawns and gardens across Canada.

March 19, 2000 - At the annual convention of the Liberal Party of Canada on March 16-19, 2000, in Ottawa, party delegates adopted priority resolution #113 concerning the cosmetic use of pesticides which states:

"Be it resolved that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to introduce an immediate moratorium on the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides until such time as their use has been scientifically proven safe and the long-term consequences of their application are known."

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