

## Background document for resolution and letter to ask for pesticide ban in areas frequented by children

At least 18 million kilograms (36 % of 50 million kilograms - \$514,759,000 of \$1,429,887,000) of pesticides were used in Saskatchewan in 1997(1)

Evidence of widespread contamination of air, water, food, and body tissues by pesticides is mounting, (2)

British and German studies have shown an increase in biodiversity and in the numbers of endangered species on organic farms,(9)

The weight of evidence of human harm from pesticides is constantly mounting (3)  
(not only cancer, but neurological, immune, respiratory, skin, and reproductive effects as well as birth defects, endocrine-disruption, and many others),

Health effects in humans and animals have been identified at very low levels of pesticide exposure, (4)

Children, directly and even from before conception, are at higher risk of pesticide health effects (5)

Many Canadian and Saskatchewan environmental and health organizations as well as health professionals have already requested a reduced use of pesticides to protect environment, biodiversity, and human health, (6)

Pesticide are used at much higher rates (3-5 times more per hectare) in cities than on farms.(8)

The Humane Society of Canada has also asked for cosmetic pesticide bylaws in municipalities, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association is warning people not to allow their pets into pesticide treated areas (7)

Organic gardeners and around 1000 Saskatchewan organic farmers and are proving every day that gardening and farming without toxic chemicals is feasible and economical,

There is a consistent increase in availability of less toxic pesticide products on the market

### References

1. *Pesticides, making the right choice for the protection of Health and Environment*; Standing Comm. On Environment and Sustainable Development; House of Commons, Canada, May 2000, and WWF ([www.wwfcanada.org/hormone-disruptors/](http://www.wwfcanada.org/hormone-disruptors/) - 2000 reference)

2. **air and water**: - hundreds of scientific papers and research projects, many by Saskatchewan researchers of various agencies (National Hydrology Research Institute, Agriculture Canada, Environment Canada, University of Regina) such as Allan Cessna, Raj Grover, David Donald, Don Waite, Renata Bailey;

- Sask Environment measurements of pesticides in Wascana Creek

**Food**: *Pesticide residues on Canadian produce doubles: report*; ALANNA MITCHELL; The Globe and Mail; Monday, May 24, 1999; "The studies say that **nearly a quarter** of Canadian produce randomly tested bears traces of pesticides, even after inedible skins are peeled off."

"Although the report says that **just 1.2 per cent of domestic produce showed residues at illegal levels, that violation rate is triple what it was at the beginning of the decade.**"

**body burdens**: *Second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*; Center for Disease Control; 2003; and *Body Burden*; Environmental Working Group, Jan 2003; Samuel,O and M. Valcke; STUDY ON BODY CONTAMINATION OF CHILDREN IN QUEBEC; released at the PESTICIDES IN OUR BODIES /A TOXIC LEGACY conference,October 18th, 2004.

3. many thousands of studies and reviews, the latest being *Pesticide Literature Review*, Ontario College of Family Physicians; April 2004  
- Our Stolen Future (<http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/>) for regular updates

4. The dose makes the poison is no longer considered the only factor affecting toxicity of a product. For low level effects:  
see Our Stolen Future (<http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/>) for regular updates

#### **5. Children at increased risk:**

- accepted medical fact based on body weight and surface area and lack of, or immature immune system, and habits, as well as effects of various low and high dose chemicals on the embryonic development;

- *Childhood Pesticide Poisoning: Information for Advocacy and Action* published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organization (WHO). <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/en/pestipoison.pdf>  
(does not go directly- search the title on google)

5 October 2004 - Pesticide poisoning is a serious health problem that disproportionately affects infants and children, ...urging steps to minimize youngsters' exposure to such potentially deadly chemicals. (An estimated 1 million to 5 million cases of pesticide poisonings occur each year, resulting in several thousand fatalities, including children)

- "Growing Up Toxic: Chemical Exposures and Increases in Developmental Disease"; Environment California Research & Policy Center;

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/envirocaliftoxics.asp?id2=13673>

- *Pesticides and Your Child* An Overview of Exposures and Risks; 1998; Campaign for Pesticide Reduction; Sierra Club

- *SafeKidsNow: Toxic Neighborhoods*; National Environmental Trust; 1999;

<http://www.picosearch.com/cgi-bin/ts.pl> ; look from documents 23-50 for main report

- *In Harm's Way Toxic Threats to Child Development*; Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility; 1999; <http://www.igc.org/psr/ihw.htm>

- see *Our Stolen Future* (<http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/>) for regular updates

- Plus dozens of scientific studies

#### **Children- suspected and unknown risk**

"The kind of information the EPA is collecting should already be known to the agency long before it registers these products for use on the market," says Jay Feldman of Beyond Pesticides. He asserts that in announcing this study, the EPA is essentially admitting that pesticide use in the 21st century is one big human experiment. **"If you don't know the exposure level, and you don't know what toxic outcomes are occurring, then ultimately it's all still experimental,"** says Feldman. In explaining the study, EPA writes, **"Currently, the data on very young children's exposures are very limited.** Children at these ages have a lot of developmental changes that may affect their exposure to pesticides. Although there have been a number of exposure studies performed for older children, there have been few studies for this age group."

From EPA Takes Industry Money To Collect Missing Data On Children's Pesticide Exposure (Beyond Pesticides, October 28, 2004); <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/news/daily.htm>

6. The following **Canadian Associations** have asked for a phase-out of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes in urban areas:

World Wildlife Fund (Canada),

Sierra Club of Canada,

Toronto Environmental Alliance,

Pesticide Free Ontario

The Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAP), Quebec

6. (continued)

David Suzuki Foundation

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Challenge/Newsletter/april2004\\_pesticides/](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Challenge/Newsletter/april2004_pesticides/)

Sustainability Within a Generation: a new vision for Canada -- chapter six, Producing Healthy Food, outlines pesticide use etc. in Canada: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Sustainability/>

Green Communities Association <http://www.gca.ca/indexcms/index.php?pf>

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE),

Canadian Coalition for Health and Environment (CCHE)

Ontario College of Family Physicians (April 2004 report)

Canadian Cancer Society

Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH)

Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA)

the Ontario Public Health Association,

Canadian Environmental Law Association,

Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

Association of Early Childhood Educators - Ontario, (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

Breast Cancer Prevention Coalition, (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

Women's Healthy Environments Network, (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

Unions and churches

- The Catholic Women's League of Canada -Resolution - 97.05

- Great Lakes United (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

- Canadian Union of Postal Workers (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

- United Steel Workers of America (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

- Local 5 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees asked Hamilton and Hamilton-Wentworth city councils to ban cosmetic use of pesticides

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) adopted a resolution on Monday, August 16, 2004, calling for the **ban of combined fertilizer and pesticide products**, ("Weed and Feed") so to ensure that each be sold separately to consumers. Products that combine a fertilizer with pesticides contribute to the unnecessary use of pesticides with the result that the toxic chemical compounds inherent in these pesticides can be harmful to human beings, animals, and fish. (Beyond Pesticides, <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/> , daily news stories, August 20, 2004)

In **Saskatchewan**, the following organizations, MDs and scientists requested a cosmetic pesticide bylaw at the Regina city hearings and/or as letters to the school boards:

- Regina Urban Environment Advisory Council (RUEAC) (presented by Roger Petry and Curt Shroeder) (city bylaw)

- Saskatchewan Lung Association (city bylaw)

- Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) (city bylaw)

- Dr James Gomes MSc, PhD, formerly of the Institute of Agricultural, Rural and Environmental Health, U of S, and U of R. Asst. Professor and Director, Environmental Health and Science Program at SIFC, U. of Regina. (city bylaw)

- Elizabeth A. Guillette, Ph.D. Assistant Scientist, Department of Anthropology PO Box 117305, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. (city bylaw)

- Dr. Delores Logan, Medical Coordinator, **Regina Community Clinic**, (letter to the Regina Public School Board),

- **The University of Saskatchewan, Academic Family Medicine, Regina Division**, (letter to the Regina Public School Board),

- Dr. Maurice Hennick, Deputy Medical Health Officer, **Regina Health District** that states, "... I have forwarded to you the position statement of the Canadian Institute of Child Health, which we, from a public health stance, would support. In the same way Public Health has also indicated that we support the views expressed by the Canadian Public Health Association."

6. (continued)

Scientists:

- Tanya Dahms, U of R chemistry professor,  
“In summary, I think that I have made a strong enough case for you **to completely disregard the presentation made to the committee by Dr. Solomon (University of Guelph)**... I would like to see a pesticide bylaw phased in over several years.” City of Regina Parks and Recreation Committee hearings, Dec 12, 2002)
- Renata Bailey, U of R chemistry professor (City of Regina Parks and Recreation Committee hearings, Dec 12, 2002)
- Fiona Goorman, representing the Biology Undergraduate and Graduate Society, U of R (City of Regina Parks and Recreation Committee hearings)

**United Nations:** October 5, 2004: *Childhood Pesticide Poisoning: Information for Advocacy and Action* has been published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organization (WHO). <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/en/pestipoison.pdf> (does not go directly- search the title on google) It confirms that pesticide poisoning is a serious health problem that disproportionately affects infants and children, ... and urges steps to minimize youngsters' exposure to such potentially deadly chemicals, including pesticide reduction, public education, and education of pesticide users in alternatives. (An estimated 1 million to 5 million cases of pesticide poisonings occur each year, resulting in several thousand fatalities, including children)

These three recommended actions reflect the three points expressed in this resolution. These three points also cover three of the four government stated priorities in the Strategy for a Green and Prosperous Economy: youth, health and sustainability

7. The Humane Society (Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws, Ontario)

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's website, *Animal Healthcare*, advises under the *Summer Pet Protection* section: "To avoid contact with harmful poisons, don't walk your pet in areas which may have been sprayed with chemical insecticides or pesticides."

8. Pesticide Bylaws: Why we need them; how to get them; Merryl Hammond, PhD, for Citizens for Alternatives to Pesticides; 1995; quoting Cox, 1988, J Pesticide Reform)

**9. ORGANIC FARMING `HELPS THREATENED SPECIES';**

- Does organic farming benefit biodiversity?; D.G. Holea et al; Biological Conservation Volume 122, Issue 1, March 2005, Pages 113-130; doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2004.07.018  
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the largest review ever done of studies from around the world comparing organic and conventional agriculture; organic farms had more individual wild animals and/or plants, such as birds, bats, insects and wildflowers, and also some declining species such as skylark.

- January 5, 2001; PA News; Tahira Yaqoob - "English Nature chief executive David Arnold -Forster was cited as telling 450 delegates at an organic farming conference at Cirencester, Gloucestershire that organic farming is breathing new life into Britain's threatened species, experts claimed today"

- report on tour of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in August 2002, compiled by Hart Haidn & Marc Loiselle :

“ Because the farm operates within the Biosphere Reserve, funds are available to research environmental aspects of the farm conversion. In the relative short time of operation it has been observed that **the bio-diversity has increased sharply. The field-lark population for example has increased 48 times. Butterflies and many other beneficial insects are plentiful again, and plants begin to appear that one cannot find on conventional farms anymore. The populations of small wildlife including hares, pheasant and grouse have multiplied.**

“Organic farming is heavily supported in the EU, as is conventional farming. A supporting infrastructure has been developed, which includes an extension service and a network of demonstration farms. “