



## Doctors say: Too many Canadian children lack protection from cosmetic pesticides

**MONTRÉAL (August 30, 2016)** – The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (**CAPE**) released a new report ([cape.ca/pesticide-policy-report](http://cape.ca/pesticide-policy-report)) that documents the dismal state of affairs when it comes to protecting Canadian children from cosmetic pesticides used on lawns and gardens, and indoors.

The report, which compares provincial and municipal laws used to limit the cosmetic use of pesticides on lawns and gardens across Canada, found that comprehensive laws exist in only a few provinces. “While seven provinces have laws that ban the non-essential use of cosmetic pesticides, only two provinces – Ontario and Nova Scotia – provide strong protection from chemicals often referred to as cosmetic pesticides” observed **Kim Perrotta**, CAPE’s Executive Director.

Quebec, formerly a leader in the fight against pesticides for cosmetic purposes, has underperformed other provinces in recent years, such as Ontario, Nova Scotia and Manitoba recently, which have adopted a white list of allowed products. Pesticides on the white list can only be used when manufacturers have proven that they are safe for use.

“There is a strong body of evidence linking pesticides to cancer, developmental deficits in our children, and adverse reproductive outcomes” said **Dr. Jean Zigby**, physician and President of CAPE. “As health professionals, the health of our future – our children – is more important than a perfect lawn or garden.”

“Only **Ontario and Nova Scotia** (which scored A- and B respectively) ban the use of all pesticides, except those that have been proven to be safe, for gardens, shrubs, and trees as well as lawns” noted Ms. Perrotta.

“**Quebec**’s current regulations (which scored a C) are not as protective as those in Nova Scotia and Ontario because they only apply to about 20 active ingredients and lawns. However, a proposed new pesticides strategy could vault Quebec into a leadership role if it is implemented” stated CAPE President, **Dr. Jean Zigby**.

“The current Pesticides Management Code only regulates the use of pesticides in areas frequented by children such as child care centres” explains **Sidney Ribaux**, Executive Director of Equiterre. “We hope that this regulation can be applied to all indoor places, which really would place Quebec as a leader in the fight against pesticides” he added.

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Established over 20 years ago, CAPE is the only Canadian organization dedicated to speaking for health professionals on environmental issues. Over the last 11 years, CAPE has led or participated in campaigns to ban the cosmetic use pesticides in six provinces and several municipalities.

## CAPE SCORECARD – Provincial Bans on Cosmetic Pesticides – 2016

Jurisdiction	Date passed	Pesticides Captured			Scope of Coverage			Exceptions		SCORE	Rating
		White List ✓✓	# of Toxic pesticides ✓✓✓✓	Covers New ✓✓	Covers More than Lawns ✓✓	Indoor Spaces ✓✓	Sensitive Areas (e.g. schools) ✓	Golf Courses ✗	Prohibits Municipal bylaws ✗		
Ontario	2008	✓✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓	✗	✗	9	A-
Nova Scotia	2011	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓		✓	✗	✗ <sup>(4)</sup>	7	B
Manitoba <sup>(3)</sup>	2014	✓	✓✓✓ <sup>(2)</sup>	✓✓			✓	✗		6	B-
Quebec	2003	✓ <sup>(1)</sup>	✓✓			✓ <sup>(1)</sup>	✓	✗		4	C
PEI	2010		✓					✗		0	D-
New Brunswick	2009		✓					✗		0	D-
Newfoundland & Labrador	2011		✓					✗		0	D-
Saskatchewan											E
Alberta											E
British Columbia											E

**Notes:**

1. Only for areas frequented by children.
2. Only herbicides are captured.
3. Manitoba is considering withdrawing its Regulations.
4. Nova Scotia still has one municipality (Halifax) with an active bylaw.
5. This assessment is based generally on the construction of provincial cosmetic pesticide bans. It does not reflect the actual “on the ground” efficacy of a cosmetic pesticide law (e.g. enforcement initiatives).
6. Enforcement and education are important aspects of effective cosmetic pesticide bans. For more information, please refer to the **CAPE report: *Cosmetic Pesticides – Provincial Policies & Municipal Bylaws: Lessons Learned & Best Practices*** at: [cape.ca/pesticide-policy-report](http://cape.ca/pesticide-policy-report)

**Score:**

A – Excellent Protection (9, 10, 11)  
 B – Good Protection (6, 7, 8)  
 C – Some Protection (3, 4, 5)  
 D – Little Protection (0, 1, 2)  
 E – No Protection

**Rating:**

Maximum ✓ or ✗ score is denoted at the top of each column.  
 ✓ - positive (added)  
 ✗ - negative (subtracted)