



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# ***NL poll finds strong support for increased protection from toxic pesticides***

**October 25, 2017** – Eight in ten residents of Newfoundland and Labrador are concerned that pesticides used on lawns and gardens are a threat to human health and the environment. And the same number say they want the provincial government to approve a list of safer pesticides that would be the only ones that could be used on lawns and gardens.

Those are the key findings of an opinion poll conducted for the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE). Results of the August 2017 survey by Corporate Research Associates are accurate within (+ or -) 4.9 per cent.

Pesticide regulations that took effect in the province in 2012 ban five specific chemicals from use on lawns. Provinces such as Nova Scotia and Ontario have implemented lists of safer pesticides, which are the only ones allowed for use on lawns and gardens. Over 80 per cent of poll respondents favour a similar approach in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“These are some of the highest levels of concern that we have seen across the country,” said Randall McQuaker, pesticides director for CAPE. “Clearly there is strong public support for action by government to restrict cosmetic pesticides in Newfoundland and Labrador.” The survey also found that almost nine in ten people favour restrictions on pesticides in places where children play, such as school yards, playgrounds and child care centres.

“Pesticides have been linked to birth defects, learning disabilities and delays in motor development in children, as well as neurological and hormonal impacts and several different types of cancer in adults,” said Dr. Ian Simpson of the Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAP-NL), an environmental group with members across the province. In many studies, the harmful effects among children were related to the exposure of their mothers during pregnancy or to the exposure of children at a young age.

CAPE and CAP-NL will seek improvements in provincial pesticide regulations during public consultations by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, expected to occur in 2018.

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**SEE BACKGROUNDER - ATTACHED**

### **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

Randall McQuaker, CAPE Pesticides Director, Winnipeg: 204-688-2558

Dr. Ian Simpson, Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAP-NL), Corner Brook: 709-634-6653

## **BACKGROUND**

### **POLL DETAILS AND FINDINGS**

- The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) commissioned the poll questions.
- The survey was conducted by Corporate Research Associates as part of their Summer 2017 omnibus survey of Atlantic Canada.
- A random sample of adults in Newfoundland and Labrador aged 18+ years was surveyed by telephone between August 9 and September 4.
- Overall results are accurate to within (+ or -) 4.9 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

### **SURVEY RESPONSES**

Q1. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?

Pesticides used on lawns and gardens pose a threat to human health.

Agree	82 %
Disagree	17 %
No Answer	1 %

Pesticides used on lawns and gardens pose a threat to the environment.

Agree	83 %
Disagree	14 %
No Answer	3 %

Q2. Would you favour or oppose implementing a list of safer pesticides that would be the only ones that could be used on lawns and gardens in Newfoundland and Labrador?

Favour	83 %
Oppose	12 %
No Answer	5 %

Q3. Would you favour or oppose restrictions on the use of pesticides in places attended by children such as school yards, playgrounds and child care centres within the province?

Favour	87 %
Oppose	12 %
No Answer	1 %

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