



Honourable Rochelle Squires
Minister of Sustainable Development
Room 344, Legislative Building, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

November 27, 2018

Dear Minister Squires:

Re: Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation (286/2014): submission of petition signatories

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) and the 361 individuals who have signed petitions urging the Government of Manitoba to retain the current provincial Regulation restricting non-essential uses of pesticides.

In previous correspondence (June 1, 2018), CAPE has highlighted the human health risks that are associated with exposure to pesticides. We cited four published summaries reporting on a total of more than 500 independent, peer-reviewed studies of pesticide health risks. This body of research indicates that the risks associated with exposure to pesticides include adverse reproductive, neurological, developmental and respiratory outcomes that are particularly significant for children, pregnant women and newborns.

CAPE has also provided information (October 17, 2018) about our recent study of municipal weed programs in six cities across Canada, which found that highly satisfactory levels of weed control can be achieved at reasonable cost without resorting to the riskier herbicides.

As noted previously, the current Manitoba ban on the more toxic pesticides represents sound, science-based public policy. The effect of the existing provincial law has been to reduce environmental and health-related risks by reducing the exposure of people, pets, wildlife and pollinating insects to chemical pesticides used for non-essential purposes. Of the seven Canadian provinces that have enacted bans on cosmetic uses of pesticides, no province has subsequently chosen to loosen such restrictions.

Along with the petitioners, CAPE strongly urges that Manitoba's current Regulation on Non-Essential Uses of Pesticides be maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Randall McQuaker

Pesticides Director

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Attached:

- text of online petition
- signatories to online petition
- hand-signed signatories to written petition