

Pesticide Exposure Reduction

Background

Other provinces and many Canadian municipalities have taken action to reduce exposure to synthetic chemical pesticides based on concerns about risks to human and animal health and to the environment. In 2009, the Province of Manitoba made a commitment to review current pesticide policies. After referral to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, a report was issued in April 2011, recommending a ban on both the sale and use of lawn pesticides. The minister responded by committing to a public consultation on the issue. This commitment was reinforced in "[Tomorrow Now](#)", Manitoba's Green Plan, released in 2012.

Play it Safe

In the spring of 2012, Conservation and Water Stewardship released a consultation paper called "[Play it SAFE](#)" that outlined the background on the sale and use of cosmetic lawn and turf pesticides, explored options and raised awareness about the future use of cosmetic pesticides in Manitoba.

What We Heard

The province received more than 2,200 submissions online, by email, or by letter. Although "Play it SAFE" discussed a range of options for effective pesticide regulation, most of the responses were presented in terms of whether or not they supported a ban on the sale and/or use of cosmetic pesticides. Approximately 36% of respondents suggested that the current regulatory regime was sufficient. Some of these submissions were in response to an industry-led petition campaign that recommended against a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides. Approximately 64% of the submissions supported restrictions on the sale and/or use of cosmetic pesticides in Manitoba. "[What we heard](#)" document outlines what Manitobans said during the consultation.

June 2013 Announcement

In June 2013, the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship announced a four-point strategy that would protect children from unnecessary exposure to chemical lawn pesticides. The [four-point strategy](#) includes strengthened noxious weed management to protect agricultural lands for production; an integrated pest management program for government; consumer and applicator awareness about effective lawn bio-pesticides and organic practices; and consultation with the education and child-care centre sectors to significantly reduce indoor pesticide exposure.



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Jurisdictional Scan

Federal Level

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has a review process for the registration of pesticides under authority of *The Pest Control Products Act*. Any pest control product imported, sold or used in Canada must be registered by the [Pest Management Regulatory Agency](#). This applies to every active ingredient, manufacturing concentrates, as well as to all end-use products containing such ingredients. Each product is given a sequential registration number by Health Canada before it is marketed, which must appear on its label.

PMRA created and updates on a regular basis a flexible [Label Search](#) tool to gather pesticide product information by searching the available Product Information Elements, or active ingredient name, trade name or product registration number from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Registered Products Database.

In December 2013, the PMRA initiated the Special Review Initiation of 23 Active Ingredients, pursuant to subsection 17(2) of *The Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)*.

Provincial Level

While Health Canada has the authority to register pesticides, municipalities and provinces have the authority to further impose restrictions on the transportation, sale, storage, use and disposal of these products. The following provinces have implemented or are in process of implementing varying restrictions regarding the sale or use of non-essential pesticides:

- [Quebec \(2003\)](#)
- [Ontario \(2008\)](#)
- [New Brunswick \(2009\)](#)
- [Prince Edward Island \(2009\)](#)
- [Nova Scotia \(2010\)](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador \(2012\)](#)
- [British Columbia \(2013\)](#)



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Studies/Reports

Health care professionals as well as scientists, academics, environmentalists, parents and women's organizations are increasingly advocating for action to reduce exposure to cosmetic or non-essential lawn pesticides. Research is providing more information on the potential risks to children. Infants and young children may be more vulnerable given their relative body weight, rapid body and brain development, ability to detoxify chemicals and given their behaviour - crawling on lawns and floors, putting their hands in their mouths and their proximity to the ground.

Numerous studies have been done since the early 1990s; the following notable warnings about the risk of synthetic chemical pesticides were released in 2012:

- [“Pesticide Exposure in Children” by American Academy of Pediatrics.](#)
- [“OCFP 2012 Systematic Review of Pesticide Health Effects” by Ontario College of Family Physicians.](#)
- [“How pesticides are undermining our children’s health & intelligence” by Pesticide Action Network North America.](#)

