

June 28, 2022

Honourable Jeff Wharton
Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks
Legislative Building, Winnipeg, MB
minecp@leg.gov.mb.ca

Honourable Audrey Gordon
Minister of Health
Legislative Building, Winnipeg, MB
minhealth@leg.gov.mb.ca

Dear Ministers Wharton and Gordon:

Re: Bill 22 - The Environment Amendment Act (Pesticide Restrictions)

We are writing to urge that current restrictions on non-essential uses of pesticides in Manitoba be maintained. We request that the provisions in Bill 22 that would allow for the use of the more toxic herbicides on lawns be withdrawn.

The current ban represents sound, science-based public policy with important health and environmental goals. Independent, peer-reviewed evidence has identified serious health risks associated with human exposure to chemical pesticides. Detailed reviews of health studies have been conducted by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (2012) and the Prince Edward Island Public Health Office (2015), among others. This body of research indicates that pesticide health risks include harmful impacts affecting adults (diabetes, cancer, neurological disorders), as well as adverse reproductive, neurological, developmental and respiratory outcomes that are particularly significant for children.

In addition, lawn care chemicals run off into waterways, adding to stress on aquatic organisms. Pesticides are linked to illnesses in domestic animals, and they pose a threat to essential pollinators.

We understand that some municipalities and lawn care service providers in Manitoba are eager to regain access to currently prohibited herbicides. But we believe the Government has not struck the right balance with Bill 22. Protecting human health is a higher priority than accommodating an aesthetic preference for weed-free lawns. There are safe and affordable methods by which attractive lawns and green spaces can be maintained without resorting to chemicals that harm children's health.

Please amend Bill 22 so that families can live in healthy neighbourhoods where they and their children are not exposed to avoidable pesticide health risks. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Yours truly,

Anne Lindsey
Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Manitoba Coalition
cpbmanitoba@gmail.com

ON BEHALF OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

Manitoba College of Family Physicians	Manitoba Public Health Association
Manitoba Lung Association	Manitoba Health Coalition
Manitoba Nurses for Health and the Environment	Learning Disabilities Association of Manitoba
Winnipeg Humane Society	Butterfly Project of Dunottar and Area
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Manitoba Committee	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter
Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg	Corydon-Osborne Greenway Butterflyway
Corydon-Osborne Residents for a Healthy Community	Environmental Health Association of Manitoba
Fireweed Food Co-op	Green Action Centre
Kairos Christian Life Community	Manitoba Eco-Network
Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition	Mixedwood Forest Society
Organic Food Council of Manitoba	Outdoor Urban Recreational Spaces (OURS) Winnipeg
People for the Protection of the Willow Island Coastal Wetlands	Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
South Osborne Residents Group	Sustainable South Osborne Community Co-op
Urban Ecology Winnipeg	Winnipeg Trails Association
Canadian Environmental Law Association	David Suzuki Foundation
Ecojustice	Prevent Cancer Now

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Manitoba is a coalition of organizations and individuals who first came together in 2013 to support restrictions on the sale and use of non-essential pesticides