

**Partnership
For
Pesticide
Bylaws**

February 20, 2004

Media Release

Group Says Fund Pesticide Bylaw

(Toronto) A coalition of doctors, nurses, lawyers, and environmentalists who supported the City's decision to adopt a pesticide bylaw now urge City Council to provide funds for educating the public about the bylaw this year. The bylaw was passed by City Council last May after numerous public meetings, stakeholder consultations and public polls showing strong public support.

"Toronto residents want the bylaw to work so that their children, their pets, their communities and the environment are protected from unnecessary exposures to these harmful chemicals," Dr. Hilary de Veber, pediatrician and member of the **Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment**, "\$225,000 is a small price to pay to make our communities safer."

The annual cost of the bylaw is \$450,000, with the city responsible for half the bill, meaning a net cost of only 9 cents per resident.

On Monday, February 23rd, the Board of Health will discuss plans to implement the pesticide bylaw through an intensive education program, and review recommendations put forward by the CAO regarding infestation thresholds and other details. The CAO's recommendations resulted from six months of discussions with the Pesticide Bylaw Advisory Committee (PBLAC).

Over 60 municipalities have now passed pesticide bylaws including Halifax and Vancouver. Montreal is expected to pass a bylaw within the year. Over 30% of Canadians live in communities that have already moved to restrict pesticide use.

"We know that a key component of a successful pesticide bylaw is a good education and enforcement program," says Katrina Miller, spokesperson for the **Toronto Environmental Alliance**. "Not funding these activities will likely result in public confusion about how to comply with the bylaw and a sense of betrayal among the majority of residents who support it."

Members of the PPB will be deputing at the Board of Health on February 23rd, when implementation plans for the bylaw are discussed.

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*Ontario College of Family
Physicians*

*Registered Nurses
Association of Ontario*

*Canadian Association of
Physicians for the
Environment*

Humane Society of Canada

*Association of Early
Childhood Educators,
Ontario*

*United Steel Workers of
America*

*Canadian Environmental
Law Association*

Great Lakes United

*Breast Cancer Prevention
Coalition*

*International Institute of
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Pesticide Free Ontario

*Toronto Environmental
Alliance*

*Women's Healthy
Environments Network*

*Environmental Defence
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*Toronto and York Region
Labour Council*