



## Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

## First statement by major health organizations

# Health Professionals say City's Pesticide Strategy is Failing

OTTAWA-- Representatives of leading health organizations are urging the City of Ottawa to pass a pesticide bylaw this Spring, rather than delay passage until the Fall.

“Public education is an important step,” said Dr. Robin Walker, an Ottawa paediatric specialist. “But research has shown that only communities which have *both* public education *and* a bylaw reduce pesticides significantly. That is the message coming from this group of medical organizations.”

“The Ontario College of Family Physicians is saying the people of Ottawa shouldn't have to wait another year before they're protected from toxic lawn products. Ottawa residents – especially children – need this protection right away,” said Gideon Forman, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

A pesticide bylaw – which would prohibit non-essential pesticide use on residential lawns and gardens – is supported by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Ontario College of Family Physicians, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and eleven of Ottawa's community health centres.

Their call is the first joint statement on the Ottawa pesticide issue by leading medical authorities.

**WHAT:** Press conference

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Ottawa City Hall, Councillors' Lounge

**For more information:**

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