

# Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Manitoba

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**For Immediate Release**

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## *Local Health and Environment Advocates Urge Province to Maintain Cosmetic Pesticide Ban*

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**Winnipeg** - News that the provincial government is planning to tamper with the cosmetic pesticide legislation has upset health and environmental advocates in Manitoba.

"We are dismayed to hear that the legislation may be loosened," said Anne Lindsey of the coalition known as Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Manitoba. "This law was created for very important reasons - to protect the health of children and others who are chemically sensitive, to protect pets and crucial pollinators like bees, and to protect our waterways. Somehow, those reasons seem to be getting forgotten in the frenzy about dandelions."

A cosmetic pesticide ban makes good policy sense. It is based on sound science, including the fact that exposure to pesticides in-utero and in early years has been shown to increase the incidence of neurological, respiratory and endocrine (hormone) related illness, according to the Ontario College of Family Physicians. In plain language, that translates into learning disorders, asthma and cancers – all devastatingly costly to families in human terms, and financially costly to our public health and social support systems. This is preventable.

Polling in Manitoba has consistently shown support for maintaining the ban on cosmetic pesticides. A poll conducted by Probe Research in late 2016 found 53 percent in support of the existing legislation compared with 42 percent against.

"Organic and safe options for maintaining beautiful green spaces are available. We are calling on the provincial government to do the right thing, and leave the cosmetic pesticide legislation intact," added Lindsey.

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*Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Manitoba is a coalition of Manitoba organizations concerned about health and the environment, working together with national groups. They include Green Action Centre, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, Manitoba Eco-Network, Campaign for Pesticide Reduction, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and the Concerned Mothers Coalition of Manitoba.*