



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

NEWS RELEASE

NLMA supports Government's decision to ban cosmetic pesticides

For immediate release – July 14, 2011

St. John's, NL – The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association applauds Ross Wiseman, Minister of Environment and Conservation and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for announcing a provincial ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.

“We are very pleased to see that the government of Newfoundland and Labrador is acting to protect its citizens' health from the unnecessary risks posed by the cosmetic use of pesticides,” says NLMA President and pediatrician Dr. Sandra Luscombe.

“It is our view that children have the right to live and play in a safe and healthy environment. Moreover, adults with respiratory diseases and elderly populations with chronic health conditions deserve to live in an environment free from unnecessary exposure to chemical hazards.”

Since 2004, physicians of the province have strongly urged the provincial government to ban the use of all pesticides and herbicides for cosmetic purposes. The NLMA has also partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society and the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association to lobby for a pesticide ban to protect the public's health and the environment.

In 2009, the NLMA conducted a poll that asked residents of the province how they felt about cosmetic pesticides. The poll found that 72 per cent of those surveyed felt lawn pesticides threatened the environment and 76 per cent believed pesticides threatened the health of children.

“Numerous Canadian medical research organizations have produced convincing evidence that pesticides play a role in the development of human cancers, including childhood non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Evidence also suggests that the harmful effects of pesticides can profoundly influence the developmental processes of the fetus and newborn children,” said Dr. Luscombe.

“Government's decision to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides will help diminish the potential for child suffering and will contribute significantly to the future health and well-being of our population.”

-30-

Media Contact:
Jonathan Carpenter
Communications Specialist
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association
Tel: (709) 726-7424, ext. 320
Email: jcarpenter@nlma.nl.ca