



APR 17 2024

Ms. Marianne Wilkinson
President
National Council of Women of Canada
presncwc@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Wilkinson:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 13, 2024, concerning the use of glyphosate in Canada and the need to consider the precautionary principle in decisions affecting the registration and use of pesticides. I regret the delay in responding.

In Canada, every level of government plays a part in protecting against risks from chemical substances. At the federal level, our health and environment are protected through acts and regulations that govern use of chemical substances, including those in food, drugs, pesticides, fossil fuels and products. There are also acts and regulations that control the release of pollution into air, water, and natural wildlife habitats. In fact, the federal government is responsible for more than 25 different pieces of legislation covering environment and environmental health issues.

The *Pest Control Products Act* provides the authority for the assessment and management of pest control products such as pesticides. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for administering the Act on behalf of the Minister of Health. Under subsection 4(1) of this act, the Minister of Health's primary objective is to prevent unacceptable risks to people and the environment from the use of pest control products. I note that you have provided a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Mark Holland.

With regard to the use of pesticides in agriculture, I am forwarding your correspondence to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, for consideration.

In co-ordination with the PMRA, Environment and Climate Change Canada carries out certain activities related to pesticides, in particular research and monitoring activities relating to the presence, fate and effects of pest control products in the environment, as well as the development of guidelines and recommendations that are protective of the environment. The Department

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will continue to work with the PMRA to promote alternative pest management strategies, provide reliable scientific data for risk assessments and encourage responsible use of pesticides.

Bill S-5, *Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act*, received royal assent on June 13, 2023. The Bill modernizes the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA), and represents the first set of comprehensive amendments to CEPA since it was enacted over 20 years ago. With this bill, the Government of Canada is delivering on its commitment to strengthen CEPA and recognize, for the first time in federal law, that every individual in Canada has a right to a healthy environment. Implementation of the right to a healthy environment under CEPA will include work to identify populations that may be disproportionately impacted due to greater susceptibility or higher exposure to environmental and health risks, leading to more informed and protective environmental and health standards.

In addition, provincial/territorial responsibilities for pesticides include, but are not limited to, regulating the sale, use, transportation, storage and disposal of pesticides. Furthermore, the provinces conduct compliance monitoring and issue licences and/or permits to pesticide applicators, operators and vendors.

I appreciate your bringing the concerns of the National Council of Women of Canada to my attention. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

c.c.: The Honourable Mark Holland, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M.P.