



April 22, 2009

Hon. John Gerretsen,
Minister of the Environment
Ministry of the Environment, 12th Floor
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5
Fax 416-314-6748

Dear Minister Gerretsen,

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Ontario Council extends to you a most happy Earth Day, Ontario, 2009. This day is made better by far by the Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act 2008 and Regulation 63/09 introduced and carried through by your Ministry, for implementation on Earth Day.

We appreciate the work done by your Ministry to provide as wide a scope as possible for pesticide-free communities, prohibiting both sale and use of cosmetic pesticides. We recognize that you and the Ontario Government were under considerable pressure to reduce the list of Class One pesticides, and also to delay implementation. We salute you for staying the course.

CFUW Ontario Council has worked hard, along with many individual clubs across Ontario, to remove cosmetic pesticides from our communities. In 2001 it was an Ontario Club, Stratford, that created the resolution *Non-Essential (Cosmetic) Pesticides: Registration and Education* which became national CFUW policy. Between 2002 and 2007, many of our clubs created educational materials to help reduce dependence on chemicals and urged their local municipalities to ban cosmetic use of pesticides, Owen Sound and Stratford among them.

In 2007, both clubs and Ontario Council strongly supported the introduction of Bill 64, Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act 2008. CFUW Ontario Council presented at the Standing Committee on Social Policy urging further improvements to the bill, some of which were accepted. We also urged immediate implementation of the Act and Regulation, in time for the 2009 garden season.

It has been a pleasure to work on behalf of a concept as important as a cosmetic pesticide-free Ontario. It has been even more of a pleasure to see a Ministry recognize the importance of this health initiative and act decisively on behalf of the men, women and children of Ontario. Thank you.

We urge continued provision of educational materials to the people of Ontario as they make the transition from chemical dependence and the concept of perfect lawns, to natural gardening, enabling the development of healthy ecosystems, on which pollinators, birds, and humans are so dependent. And yes, we also urge an eventual end to the exemption given to golf courses, used by men, women, and youth as young as nine and ten.

Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women is composed of fifty-seven clubs comprised of graduates living in urban and rural areas across Ontario. We are proud that we non-partisan, non-sectarian and member funded. Our organization is part of the Canadian Federation of University Women and has links to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Yours sincerely,

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Letter prepared by Sheila Clarke, Ontario Council Environment Issues