



February 4, 2009

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A

Dear Premier McGuinty,

The Community Health Nurses' Initiatives Group (CHNIG), an interest group of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, is the voice of Community Health Nurses influencing the health care system, and health and social policy in areas which affect the work of Community Health Nurses and the public we serve. CHNIG represents over 1900 community health nurses registered with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

As Community Health Nurses, our practice specialty promotes the health of individuals, families, communities and populations. Our first priority is ensuring healthy environments for the people in Ontario. We are strong advocates for healthy public policy and recognize the importance of the legislation the government has proposed to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides.

The long term health risk from exposure to pesticides is well established. Many of our members work for municipalities where pesticide bylaws have existed for some time and are strong supporters of the need for legislation to ensure a healthy environment. We strongly support the direction of proposed provincial legislation and regulations that will reduce exposure to pesticides in Ontario as an upstream investment in health. It's clearly the right thing to do.

The government must deliver regulations no weaker than the draft regulations issued November 7, 2008. We urge you to not dilute the regulations in any way, and to deliver them as promised in the spring of 2009. This is your opportunity to provide provincial leadership in this important issue. Ontarians look forward to safer, greener public and private spaces which these regulations will help ensure.

Respectfully,



Kim Dalla Bona
President Community Health Nurses Initiative Group RNAO

cc Hon John Gerretsen Minister of the Environment, Hon David Caplan Minister of Health, Hon Margaret Best Minister of Health Promotion, Hon. Michael Bryant Minister of Economic Development, Hon. Sandra Papatello Minister of International Trade and Investment, Hon. Harinder Takhar Minister of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Hon Dwight Duncan Minister of Finance and. Minister of Revenue.