

Media Release

Organization: Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides NL (CAP-NL)

Date: April 14, 2011

**ADVOCACY COALITION TO MAKE COSMETIC PESTICIDE BAN A PROVINCIAL
ELECTION ISSUE FOR 2011**

The advocacy group requesting legislation to ban cosmetic pesticide use in Newfoundland and Labrador are calling on all people across the province to make their vote count on this important health and environment issue when the ruling Conservative government of Kathy Dunderdale calls for an election this fall. A poll conducted in 2009 by the Newfoundland Medical Association shows that greater than 70% of people would be in favour of a pesticide ban for lawn and garden products similar to what is currently enacted in Ontario, Quebec, PEI, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAP-NL) has met with both opposition parties and are encouraged by their interest and support. CAP-NL met with the Minister of the Environment on April 13, 2011 but they were unable to secure a firm commitment that the current government will pass legislation to protect our children and the environment from the harmful effects of non-essential pesticides.

CAP-NL anticipates that the pesticide ban issue will be a key factor in several ridings given the comprehensive support for such legislation in several municipalities, and with the endorsement of the healthcare professional organizations in the province and Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador. A ban on cosmetic pesticides will not only be good for our health and environment but also the lawn and garden industry, which saw an increase in the numbers of people working in that sector after bans in Toronto and Halifax.

For further information:

- Darcie Cohen, coordinator
- CAP-NL
- 709-753-7898
- 709-764-6691
- pesticidealternatives@gmail.com