LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When it comes to pesticides, who are you going to believe?

This is in response to the letter "Pesticide bans aren't the answer" in your Aug. 18 edition.

Lorne Hepworth's name can be found virtually anywhere there is an opinion on pesticide issues in Canada. Hepworth is notorious for grossly misrepresenting the federal pesticide registration process. Why does he care about Newfoundlanders and Labradorians? He doesn't.

He is the president of CropLife Canada, a trade association representing the large multinational companies that manufacture pesticides. He has a biased opinion strictly based on putting dollars in chemical companies' pockets.

Who will you believe? Our medical doctors and our health associations who care about our health? Or the lone cry from Hepworth, an industry letter-writer and pesticide promoter?

Judie Squires
Portugal Cove

I write regarding the letter in The Telegram on Aug. 18, "Pesticide bans aren't the answer."

Naturally, a representative of the pesticide industry is going to oppose pesticide bans.

But the people of Newfoundland and Labrador have to ask themselves whom they trust: our nurses, doctors, the Lung Association, and the Canadian Cancer Society — who support a lawn pesticide ban — or the companies that produce these chemicals.

As a physicians' organization, we support a prohibition on toxic lawn products because the science shows they're linked to cancer, birth defects and neurological illness (such as Parkinson's).

Homeowners can keep their property beautiful using non-toxic products.

Gideon Forman, executive director
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