

LAWNCARE GROUP MEMBERS: URGENT CALL TO ACTION

The draft Regulations under the *Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008* released by the government on November 7th are completely unsatisfactory to Landscape Ontario and the professional lawncare industry. If these proposed directions are followed in the final Regulations, our industry will have no ability to deal with insect infestations when they occur on clients' proprieties. The attached document outlines our specific concerns and proposals.

The Executive of the Lawncare Commodity Group will be involved in a direct meetings and discussion with the Minister of the Environment, the Premier's Office and other senior government officials. At the same time, we need both the Ministry and average MPPs to be fully aware of how upset people in the industry are and the dire consequences these proposed policies will have on lawns across the province.

That means we need the immediate, active involvement of everyone in the industry to counter this proposed policy – you, your employees, suppliers, family and colleagues.

There are a number of simple steps you must take to preserve your business:

- 1) **Call your local MPPs and either speak with them by phone or book a time to meet at the constituency office.** Use the attached speaking points as a guide to the issues, but emphasize the direct impact on your business and on the homeowners in the Member's riding. You can approach multiple MPPs; the one is in whose riding you live as well as where your business is located. Most MPPs offices will also take meetings if you do significant business in their riding – i.e. anywhere you have customers – but some insist on a local address.

(You can look up your MPP's contact information by his/her name or the riding name at http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/member_addresses.do?AddType=CONT&locale=en. If you do not know either name, go to the Postal Code lookup function at Elections Ontario at http://fyed.elections.on.ca/fyed/en/form_page_en.jsp, then go back and plug the riding name into the member search list. If you have any difficulty, call Counsel Public Affairs at 416-920-0716, ext 223 (Marisa Lamont) or 224 (Katie Robb.)

- 2) **Encourage all of your employees (as well as family, friends, suppliers and clients you are willing to approach) to phone, write or email to their MPP.** Pass along the talking points but do not provide a form letter; to be effective, we need them to make the case in their own words.
- 3) **Register for and attend one of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) information sessions on the Regulations.** These meetings are being held at the MacDonald Block complex, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, as follows:
 - 1) November 21, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Kenora/Nipissing/Nipigon Room
 - 2) November 25, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Huron Room

Seating is limited, so register right away by contacting Amanda Powers of MOE at 416-314-5603 or Amanda.Powers@Ontario.ca.

- 4) **Submit a written response to the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry posting of the draft Regulations (New General Regulation under the Pesticides Act, 1990 to implement the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008).** Your written responses must be submitted by midnight on December 21, 2008. The regulations and details on how to submit electronically or by mail are at www.ebr.gov.on.ca. The Registry number to enter is 010-5080. Your submission can be as short or long as you want; the important point is to speak to the key issues and the problems with the proposed direction.

No one else will speak up on your behalf. The industry must make our voices heard!