



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01189**

BY: **MR. DONNELLY (PORT MOODY-COQUITLAM)**

DATE: **MARCH 8, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOËL LIGHTBOUND**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Agricultural industry

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

In Canada, pesticides are regulated by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA). The number one priority of the PMRA is to protect the health and safety of Canadians and their environment.

Before a pesticide is allowed to be used or sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific assessment process. This is necessary to determine that no harm, including long-term effects, will occur when pesticides are used according to label directions determined by PMRA. Results from numerous types of scientific studies must be submitted to determine if the pesticide would cause any negative effects to people, animals, birds, insects, plants as well as on the soil and water. All pesticides registered in Canada undergo this level of scrutiny. If the specified use of a pesticide poses unacceptable risks to human health or the environment, it is not registered for use in Canada.

Registered pesticides regularly undergo re-evaluation to ensure that they continue to meet modern standards for human health and environmental protection and provide value. In the case of glyphosate, after extensive re-evaluation and consultations, Health Canada found that products containing glyphosate do not present unacceptable risks to human health or the environment when used according to the proposed label directions. This scientific review considered data provided by registrants as well as available scientific literature, incident reports and other information.

As a condition of the continued registration of glyphosate uses, some additional risk reduction measures are required for the end-use products registered in Canada.

The *PCPA* contains several provisions to promote transparency in the pesticide registration system. A key mechanism is the requirement for an electronic Pesticide Public Registry (e-PRS). The e-PRS is a collection of non-confidential information on pesticides and the pesticide regulatory system. All publicly available information on currently registered pesticides is available through the Pesticide Product Information Database and the Regulatory and Policy Documents. This includes the recently released re-evaluation decision document [RVD 2017-01].

The *PCPA* offers other opportunities for the public to participate in the regulatory process, including the review of information that cannot otherwise be publicly disclosed. For example, test data provided to Health Canada in confidence are protected from public disclosure under the *Access to Information Act*, but can be inspected in the PMRA Reading Room. Through the PMRA Reading Room, the public may inspect the confidential test data supporting a registration when a decision is made under the new *PCPA* to register a product, amend a registration, or when the registration is continued following a re-evaluation or special review. There are no fees associated with the inspection of test data.

Further information on pesticide re-evaluations, consultations, and the reading room are available at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/PMRA, or from the Pest Management Information Service at 1-800-267-6315.