

News Release

**British Columbia residents support continued use of pest control products
– a recent poll says**

August 17, 2011, Ottawa, ON – A new survey shows the majority of British Columbians favour the continued use of pesticides around their homes and in public green spaces, as opposed to having a province-wide ban on these products.

“There is a misperception that most residents want a ban,” said Shannon Coombs, President of the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA), which commissioned the study. “The results of this poll clearly reflect it is only a minority of the population, especially when residents are asked about specific pest problems and scenarios.”

The poll presented respondents with eight potential scenarios. Responses to these scenarios included:

Insect control

- 88% of those surveyed indicated insect control by homeowners inside their residences should be allowed (65%) or allowed under certain circumstances (23%). This number climbed to 92% support when respondents were asked if professional insect control inside homes should be allowed or allowed under certain circumstances.
- 73% of respondents said homeowners should also be allowed or allowed under certain circumstances to use insect control products on their lawns and gardens. This number increased to 84% if the pesticides were to be applied by trained operators.

Weed control

- 64% of respondents indicated homeowners should be allowed to use weed control products on their lawns and gardens. 70% of respondents said trained or licensed operators should be allowed to use these products on privately owned lawns and gardens.

When looking at all eight potential scenarios covered by the poll, 25% of respondents said pest control products should be allowed for all scenarios; and 83% said “yes” to at least one scenario. It is important to note that less than 10% said “no” to six or more of the eight scenarios and only 2% said “no” to every scenario.

The poll also highlights that 69% of British Columbia (B.C.) residents trust Health Canada’s regulation of the sale and use of pest control products and 58% of residents are aware of the provincial government’s role in ensuring relevant information is provided to consumers at point of purchase. These data indicate the B.C. Government has an excellent opportunity to reach out to consumers even more and provide value-added information.

“This study shows the majority of B.C. residents are confident they can use pest control products safely and they want to continue to have the option to do so. Clearly they see the benefits of these products,” said Ms. Coombs.

“This consumer research is critical to shaping future policies in British Columbia regarding the safe use of our members’ products,” Ms. Coombs said. “We believe the B.C. Government should take a thoughtful approach to ensuring consumers have the tools they need to keep their homes and public spaces safe. B.C. has the opportunity to lead all provinces on this issue in a scientific and responsible manner, and our association is willing to work with the Government to achieve that collective goal.”

The CCSPA is a national trade association representing the consumer, industrial and institutional specialty products industry.

This poll was administered using Vision Critical, Angus Reid’s B.C. online panel, representative of B.C. residents aged 18 and over. It was fielded on July 6 and 7, 2011, and is considered accurate to within +/- 3.4 per cent, 19/20 times. For a complete copy of the poll and results, please go to <http://www.healthycleaning101.org/english/media.html>.

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