

Statement from Environment and Climate Change Minister Gilles LePage:

“Pesticide use in New Brunswick is science-based, tightly regulated, and designed to protect people and the environment. There are strong laws in strict oversights in place to ensure pesticides are used safely and responsibly.

Before any pesticide can be used, it must go through an extensive scientific review (and re-review at minimum every 15 years) by Health Canada to make sure it is safe for people, wildlife, and the environment. Products are only approved if they meet some of the toughest safety standards in the world and can only be applied following strict label directions.

On top of this rigorous federal approval process, New Brunswick has its own rules, permits, and training requirements to make sure pesticides are applied properly and only when needed. In industries like forestry, even stricter safeguards are in place such as limits on where and how products can be used, special certifications for applicators, and measures to protect water, wildlife, and nearby communities.

I want to emphasize that this strong, layered system means that pesticide use in the province is guided by science, and is backed by law with strong safeguards in place.

Since the First Report of the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship was released in November 2021, government has completed its review of recommendations and added further oversight and restrictions. This includes re-activating the Pesticide Advisory Board, which is responsible for meeting on matters related to the Pesticide Control Act and investigating issues and gaps in information related to the use of pesticides in the province. This year, forestry and structural sector permits were updated to include stricter conditions with additional setbacks from dwellings, water and additional notifications to the public.

Our government remains committed to investigating alternatives to pesticides use in all sectors - agriculture, structural, landscape and forestry - and examining the banning of aerial spraying in New Brunswick. We have a highly technical and experienced team within the Pesticide Advisory Board and this work is a top priority.”