

Government Response

To the Standing Committee on Environment
and Sustainable Development's Report on
Pesticides



Standing Committee Study

- “...a study on the management and use of pesticides in Canada including an evaluation of the performance of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in preventing pollution and in protecting the environment and human health.” (April 27, 1999)



Standing Committee Study

- 38 meetings, 50 briefs, 85 witnesses
- Health and environmental groups, industry groups, federal departments, provincial department, researchers, individuals
- PMRA appeared June 2 and Nov. 4, 1999
- Minister appeared Feb. 17, 2000



Standing Committee Report

- “Pesticides: Making the Right Choice for the Protection of Health and the Environment”
- Released May 16, 2000
- 77 recommendations



Recommendation Themes

- Research and research funding
- legislative changes (35 recommendations)
- product evaluation and re-evaluation
- funding for PMRA operations
- transparency and public involvement
- risk reduction
- interdepartmental and international cooperation



Committee's Guiding Principles

- To make protection of human health and the environment the absolute priority
- To ensure that a precautionary approach is taken in decision-making
- To promote and increase reliance on pollution prevention strategies
- To foster public confidence by informing and involving Canadians



Legislation

- Re-iterated Government commitment to renew legislation
 - “remain committed to legislative renewal”
 - “specific legislative proposals will be brought forward”
- Specifics to be set out when Bill introduced



Priority for Health and Environmental Protection

- Describes legal obligations, science-based risk assessment / risk management
- Many specific recommended actions on regulatory requirements in place or under development
- Development of framework to better link to federal research



Sustainable Pest Management

- Combine rigorous health and environmental standards for products with practices that emphasize prevention, such as IPM
- Urban pesticide use: re-evaluation of lawn care chemicals, “Healthy Lawns” strategy
- PMRA / AAFC agreement to pursue commodity based risk reduction strategies



Fostering Public Confidence

- Openness and transparency of regulatory process
- Use of PRDDs, Regulatory Notes
- New legislation is key



Institutional Issues

- Mandate
- Interdepartmental, intergovernmental co-operation
- Harmonization



Conclusion

- Four “pillars” of risk reduction
 - product regulation / health and environmental protection
 - scientific research and monitoring
 - sustainable pest management, IPM
 - user and consumer awareness, involvement
- Urban, agricultural risk reduction strategies

