

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Division
11th Floor, Hepburn Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3Telephone: (416) 212-3831
Facsimile: (416) 325-8412**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Médecin hygiéniste en chef

Division de la santé publique
Édifice Hepburn, 11e étage
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3Téléphone: (416) 212-3831
Télécopieur: (416) 325-8412

March 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Medical Officers of Health
Associate Medical Officers of Health**

RE: Herbicide 2,4,5-T and potential health impacts

In follow-up to my previous memo of March 2, 2011, I would like to provide you with an update regarding the investigation into the use of 2,4,5-T herbicide in Ontario.

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the Ministry of Natural Resources announced that Dr. Leonard Ritter will chair the Independent Fact-Finding Panel on 2,4,5-T herbicide. Dr. Ritter is the Executive Director of the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centres and professor of toxicology at the University of Guelph. He will lead a panel of experts looking at the use of 2,4,5-T by provincial ministries and agencies.

The panel will, based on the information available:

- Investigate and document the scope and scale of the use of 2,4,5-T herbicide in the province by Ontario government ministries and agencies, including those acting as agents or as contractors;
- Determine the specific time period when 2,4,5-T herbicide was used in the province by Ontario government ministries and agencies;
- Determine the geographic area where 2,4,5-T herbicide was used in the province by Ontario government ministries and agencies;
- Examine whether exposure to 2,4,5-T herbicide in the affected areas may have potential health impacts;
- Document the methods 2,4,5-T herbicide was deployed by employees of provincial ministries and agencies, and the interaction of those employees and the general public with 2,4,5-T herbicide application operations in affected areas;
- Review the preparation, application and storage of 2,4,5-T herbicide as well as provincial occupational health and safety, and laws, standards and workplace practices including the use of personal protection equipment and applicable training in place at that time; and

- Refer, where appropriate, to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board any findings that could assist its work.

The panel's final report will be submitted to the Minister of Natural Resources and released to the public in its entirety.

I would invite you to visit the Ministry of Natural Resources website for more information:
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/About/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_082257.html

I would also like to inform you that I have asked the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to undertake a review of existing literature and produce a brief report on the health effects associated with exposure to 2,4,5-T, 2,4,5-T combined with 2,4-D, and dioxin.

Lastly, I have included a set of key messages and a fact sheet on 2,4,5-T herbicide for your reference.

I will continue to keep you informed on this ongoing issue.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Arlene King, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health

C: Allison Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division
Dr. Vivek Goel, President and CEO, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion.

Attachments