



September 7, 2019

Dear Honorable Premier Higgs, Ministers Jeff Carr and Mike Holland,

On behalf of Stop Spraying NB (SSNB), I would like to send our appreciation for your acknowledgement of our concerns surrounding the practice herbicide spraying on crown forests and by NB Power.

It is very important to us and our supporters, that the PC Party listens to a significant portion of the New Brunswick population and bans herbicide spraying on public forests and herbicide spraying by NB Power. The province of Quebec stopped issuing licenses to spray herbicides on forests in 2001, because the public demanded this. The efforts to compile 34000 hand written signatures supporting a ban on herbicide spraying should be recognized by this government, and action should be taken on this issue.

SSNB extended an offer to all political parties to assist in drafting this bill immediately after the election. The now Department of Energy and Resource Development (DERD) minister Mike Holland and MLA Ross Wetmore attended this publicly broadcasted session, and expressed a keen interest in dealing with this issue. We would like to remind you that there was a PC motion tabled by Ross Wetmore and debated in November 2017 that called for what would have been a one-year moratorium on glyphosate spraying on public forests, during which time a working group was to study this issue. We have been told by Ministers Mike Holland and Jeff Carr that consultations are under way, but told at a meeting in early spring of this year not to expect what we are asking for. We need to express our concerns that Minister Jeff Carr is taking the lead from DERD; should the Department of Environment and Local Government (DOELG) not be there to protect the environment and give DERD direction instead?

We are asking when we can set a date in late September to discuss this issue with Premier Blaine Higgs, and Ministers Mike Holland and Jeff Carr.

Our supporters are looking for action on this important environmental and economic issue: wildlife habitat (food and shelter) is lost at an unsustainable rate, and tax payers are funding a practice on Crown land that gives profits to the large forestry companies but not to New Brunswick's coffers.

Please send us your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Dr. Caroline Lubbe-D'Arcy
Chair, SSNB