

July 23, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Health Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Re: Urgent concerns regarding Bill C-30 amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act*

On behalf of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), the national professional voice of nurses and nurse practitioners in Canada, and the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment (CANE), we write to express serious concerns about the recent passage of Bill C-30 and the amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act*. We are deeply troubled by the provisions of Bill C-30, which allow the Cabinet to authorize pest control products that have unacceptable environmental risks, and strongly urge the Government to prioritize human and environmental health.

Specifically, we call on the federal government to:

1. Repeal or substantially amend the Bill C-30 provisions that allow Cabinet to override science-based determinations of unacceptable environmental risk.
2. Ensure protection of human and environmental health and safety remains the primary purpose and overriding consideration in pesticide regulation.
3. Preserve Health Canada's scientific independence and regulatory capacity, including resources for timely pesticide reviews, monitoring, and enforcement.
4. Engage the CNA with CANE, Canada's half a million nurses, public health experts, Indigenous health leaders, and other health-sector groups in any review or implementation of regulatory changes related to pesticides.

For more than three decades, the CNA has championed environmental justice and planetary health. This approach is rooted in high-quality scientific evidence on the impacts of harmful human practices and substances on human and environmental health. Bill C-30 undermines this very approach and poses significant health harms, including but not limited to endocrine disruption, cancer, congenital defects, and a host of other health risks. Evidence of health-

related costs from endocrine-disrupting chemicals in Canada is estimated to be nearly \$35.8 billion annually, accounting for inflation, although the true cost is likely to be higher.

For nurses and the communities we serve, pesticide regulation is a vital public health issue with equity concerns. The provisions set out in Bill C-30 weaken these regulations, and children, pregnant people, agricultural workers, Indigenous communities, rural communities and people with chronic health conditions will bear the disproportionate burden of the resulting harms.

Bill C-30 also directly contravenes the [*Pan-Canadian Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance*](#), which relies on the One Health approach. This perspective recognizes that food security, environmental integrity, and health equity are fundamentally interconnected. Building resilient food systems requires a holistic framework, one that includes healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainable agricultural practices, and strong public health protections. However, by allowing for the use of harmful agricultural pesticides, Bill C-30 undermines this foundation. These chemicals contribute to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by creating soil environments where resistant bacteria thrive, eventually rendering first-line antibiotics ineffective. The consequences are already evident.

Canada spends an estimated \$1.4 billion annually on AMR-related diseases. In 2018, AMR was linked to over 14,000 deaths in Canada and was directly responsible for 5,400 deaths. By 2050, cumulative deaths could reach 256,000 or 396,000 if resistance to first-line antibiotics increases to 40%. By overriding science-based pesticide restrictions, Bill C-30 risks hastening the timeline and bringing this devastating death toll sooner than 2050.

The immediate and long-term consequences of the changes to the *Pest Control Products Act* are significant and innumerable, and urgent action is required. The CNA stands ready to work with your office and welcomes the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tracie Risling, RN, PhD

President, Canadian Nurses Association



Dr. Émilie Tremblay, RN, PhD

President, Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

cc: **Dr. Valerie Grdisa, RN, PhD**

CEO, Canadian Nurses Association