



Mr. Richard Garneau
Resolute Forest Products
111 Duke Street, Suite 5000
Montréal, Quebec, H3C 2M1, Canada
Phone: [514-875-2160](tel:514-875-2160)
Email: info@resolutefp.com

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Dear Mr. Garneau,

I am writing on behalf of Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet (CUSP), a Thunder Bay based local citizen's group. We request your immediate attention to concerns voiced by people across northern Ontario, and in particular our community Thunder Bay; your herbicide spraying programs are continuing without the support of local people. We have collected over 1,000 signatures from citizens living in and alongside northern Ontario forests that Resolute Forest Products manages, harvests, processes (or did process) timber in – including Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Kenora, Terrace Bay, Hearst, Constance Lake First Nation, Iroquois Falls and others.

We were disappointed to hear Seth Kursman, Resolute's spokesperson, dismiss local concerns and say that the use of the chemical [glyphosate] is safe, as reported on July 30, 2015 in Thunder Bay, Fort Francis and Dryden media. We agree with Dr. Meaghan Labine (PhD Pharmacology, specialization in environmental toxicity, former resident of Red Lake, Ontario): “foresters are not pharmacologists, pharmacists, medical doctors or chemical engineers; they are not qualified to make statements about the safety and quality of chemicals that the public is exposed to¹.”

We are aware that Health Canada has approved the use of glyphosate for managing unwanted vegetation, and that, as far as we know, Resolute's operations meet legal requirements. We do not, however, believe that the company has achieved the social license that it claims to have. Local concern over herbicide spraying has been ongoing for two decades. As you know, this year the World Health Organization stated that glyphosate is *probably carcinogenic to humans* – published in the journal *The Lancet Oncology*². This has increased public concern, yet Resolute appears immune to it. For example, according to Resolute's Black Spruce 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan, Resolute planned to spray over 13,000 ha (approximately 32,000 acres) of public forests in the first 5 years of management – a substantial tract of land. With glyphosate “probably carcinogenic” and mounting public opposition, this plan must be revisited.

Below we report just a few of the comments provided to us by local people as to why they want spraying on our public forests to stop.

I live here. I hunt here and I harvest the wild foods that grow here. (Ignace, Ontario)

Our forests belong to all of us, not just forest industry. We need to share our abundance, not rape it for profit. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

I used to be a licenced pesticide applicator. I let my licence expire because I believe there are better ways to achieve our goals in forestry. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

Il semble qu'on a pas retenu la leçon avec l'agent oranger des années 70. Protégez la santé des gens et évitez les futures recours collectifs qui coutent très cher, cessez ces pratiques douteuse. (Ontario)

I'm signing because blueberry picking is important to the people of this region, the bears also need berries for food. Without it they will head for garbage dumps and populated areas in their search. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

Research indicates that pesticides containing glyphosate, including Vision Max and Roundup, are carcinogenic therefore their use as herbicides should be stopped. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

“Probably carcinogenic” – no more reason needed not to do this. It's not all about logging, it's about a safe world, keeping a safe world, for all beings. (Mattawa, Ontario)

Forest ecosystems should be respected, along with the foods they provide. I pick blueberries every summer and store them for the winter. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

...because it is irresponsible to spray pesticides over forests with complete disregard for all the other organisms that live there (including people). (Kakabeka Falls, Ontario)

I have the right to decide what is in and on my food and in the environment that I live in and no one should be able to choose for me. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

Stop poisoning the people and wildlife of Ontario! Why do you think there are so many bear sightings? You've poisoned their food supply!!! (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

I am an Ojibway and I live in northwestern Ontario. I pick and store and eat blueberries all year round. (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

Resolute has claimed that “the people of the Boreal have a voice; they are not second-class parties in determining their own future” (Resolute website, July 21, 2015). We agree. As “people of the Boreal” we do not want Resolute to continue to dismiss local concerns on herbicide spraying programs. It is time to stop dismissing these concerns and implement alternatives to herbicide spraying. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Paul Berger
Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet
paul.berger@lakeheadu.ca
[807-983-2333](tel:807-983-2333)

¹<http://www.thenorthernsun.com/exploring-the-divided-issue-of-aerial-herbicide-spraying/>

² Guyton, K. Z. et al. (2015) Carcinogenicity of tetrachlorvinphos, parathion, malathion, diazinon, and glyphosate. *The Lancet Oncology* 16(5), 490-491.