

Need for Canadian Data

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency requires up-to-date grower use information for its crop protection product re-evaluations. As the PMRA does not have agricultural specialists on staff, they must approach the experts, like CHC, to provide information. Sales data for pesticides are collected by different agencies, but the actual pesticide use information (including product used, rate and number of applications on specific crops) is not actively collected in Canada. Surveys can be conducted by CHC and grower groups when a product is under review, but this relies on growers to volunteer their time, effort, and data.

Furthermore, the PMRA's mandate is to protect human health and the environment, and yet they do not have access to environmental data such as Canadian surface water monitoring for pesticide residues. The PMRA relies on water monitoring data for use in the risk calculations when evaluating pesticides, and without it, are relying on either highly conservative computer models or other jurisdictions' data, usually the United States. These other jurisdictions do not share Canada's climate, crops, or use patterns. Decisions that impact Canadian farmers should be based on Canadian data.

We are asking each party to commit to implementing policy to:

- ***Work across government departments to collect and share pesticide use data.***
- ***Provide immediate funding to the PMRA to administer a national water monitoring program for pesticide residues in order to provide critical and robust information for risk assessments and trend analysis. As a regulatory agency, the PMRA cannot generate their own data, however, they are in the best place to administer funding and experimental protocols to address the very specific data requirements of the agency.***
- ***As the Canada Water Agency is developed, Environment and Climate Change Canada must work closely with AAFC and PMRA to meet the long-term needs of Canadian growers.***