CALGARY (November 13, 2008) — The Canadian Cancer Society, Alberta/NWT Division, is applauding the Alberta government's ban on commonly used herbicide-fertilizer pesticide products announced today.

This action will ban the sale and use of such cosmetic pesticide products, which are typically applied to lawns. The use of cosmetic pesticides has no countervailing health benefits, is harmful to the environment, and is potentially dangerous to human health.

"The Canadian Cancer Society believes that the Alberta government has taken the appropriate first step to limit the risk to human health and the environment through this initiative," says Angeline Webb, Cancer Control Analyst for the Canadian Cancer Society. "This is especially true when the reason for using pesticides on lawns is to prevent weeds that can be removed in other potentially less damaging ways."

A broad range of cancers - among them leukemia, lung cancer, brain cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and pancreatic cancer - are linked to pesticide exposure and the evidence is suggestive and growing. Other diseases like Parkinson's, respiratory illnesses, and some learning disorders are also considered to have a link. Children may be at the greatest risk of such exposure because they often crawl and play on grass.

Albertans have shown support for restrictions on cosmetic pesticides, as demonstrated by a public opinion poll commissioned by the Canadian Cancer Society in May 2008. An average of 87% of Albertans polled said they support laws restricting the use of cosmetic pesticides used for strictly aesthetic purposes.

Alberta joins Ontario and Quebec, in addition to more than 100 municipalities across Canada, which have already enacted similar restrictions.

The Canadian Cancer Society supports the Alberta government in this important initiative and encourages further restrictions to include all cosmetic pesticides and their use on both private and public lands.

"A ban on the sale and use of this type of cosmetic pesticides in our province is a necessary step to reduce harm, especially to children," says Webb. "Albertans will now know that their children are safer playing outdoors and that the environment is being further protected through this ban."

*The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers and staff whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality*
of life of people living with cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit our website at www.cancer.ca or call our toll-free, bilingual Cancer Information Service at 1 888 939-3333.