

NDP KEY COMMITMENT: PROTECT HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT WITH RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW

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Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton says we need to protect the health of our children and the environment. Today, Hampton outlined his third key commitment you can count on: A Right-to-Know law that ensures families know what toxins and other environmental hazards are in our food, ground, air and water.

Speaking this morning at NDP candidate Paul Ferreira's campaign headquarters in York South-Weston, Hampton outlined how this legislation will make life better for today's working families.

"Families have the right to know when there are dangerous chemicals in their water, in their air, in their workplaces, their backyard, or even their children's toys. That's why the NDP is committed to establishing a Right-to-Know law that would make sure families know when they are being exposed to toxins in their day-to-day lives," Hampton said.

Everyday Ontarians are exposed to a soup of dangerous toxic chemicals at home, at work, in our neighbourhoods, and in our rivers and lakes – some of which are known to be cancer causing. Unfortunately, most families are in the dark about hazardous chemicals in their backyard since companies don't have to tell communities what toxins they're pumping into our environment.

The NDP Right-to-Know law will require manufacturers to disclose to consumers the known or suspected toxins in products on information labels. Workers will have access to information about the health effects of chemicals they are exposed to in the workplace. The plan also calls for a comprehensive pollution inventory so people know what pollution exists in their community. Finally, local fire departments will be informed of every hazardous substance in local businesses in the event of an accident.

The NDP put forward a Right-to-Know law in the last provincial parliament. It had the support of nurses, environmentalists and working families. It died on the order paper when McGuinty Liberals shut down the Legislature three weeks early to duck questions about their slush-fund scandal.

“Today’s families deserve to know when they are exposed to danger. Dalton McGuinty got it wrong when he shut down the legislature and killed the NDP’s Right-to-Know bill. New Democrats will make it right with a law that ensures families know what toxins are in our food, air, ground and water. That’s a commitment you can count on,” Hampton said.
