
News Release



Thornhill M.P. Susan Kadis launches effort to classify brominated flame retardants as toxic substance

THORNHILL – Thornhill M.P. Susan Kadis has taken action to protect the health of all Canadians. She has tabled a private member’s bill which calls on the Government to add brominated flame retardants to the list of toxic substances under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

“When I started looking into this issue I quickly realized that flame retardants are everywhere. These chemicals can migrate from products, and have been detected in house dust, human blood and breast milk. There are numerous compelling studies that point to the danger of flame retardants as a serious cause for concern and we need to take action now,” Mrs. Kadis said.

“The European Union, California and several other U.S. states have banned these harmful chemicals. Canada has not. Let’s not fall even further behind,” Mrs. Kadis added.

A study released yesterday by Environmental Defence, a Canadian environmental group, reported that flame retardants are suspected of disrupting hormones and causing cancer and developmental disorders. The report states that these chemicals are suspected of having particularly damaging effects on the thyroid (which controls brain development), and as a result, may cause learning disabilities and behaviour problems. Flame retardants are used in furniture, electronics, carpets and curtains.

Mrs. Kadis took this bold initiative after Thornhill resident Beatriz Eidelman had written to her expressing her deep unease about the existence of flame retardants in our environment.

“The presence of flame retardants in our society is of great concern to me and my family in Thornhill. I want them banned in Canada and ultimately around the world. I know that my goal will be achieved in small steps and I thank Mrs. Kadis for taking the initiative because her Bill is definitely a positive move forward,” Mrs. Eidelman said.

For further information please call 613-992-0253.