



News Release

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTIONS ON PROTECTING HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CANADIANS IN KADIS' PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL FINALLY MOVING FORWARD

OTTAWA, December 12th, 2006, Susan Kadis, Member of Parliament for Thornhill, sees the Government's *Chemical Management Plan* as the first positive step in ensuring the health and safety of Canadians. In particular, the announcement included action on polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's), commonly known as fire retardants, which are to be phased out from household and commercial products over the next four years.

Kadis introduced a Private Member's Bill in the Spring session of Parliament calling for a ban of PBDE's which are found in many household items such as furniture, curtains, computers and televisions. Risk assessments on this chemical have shown increases in thyroid hormone disruption and behavioral developments like symptoms of attention deficit and hyperactivity. In addition, testing has shown that Canadian women have the second highest level of PBDE's in their breast milk next to that of the United States.

"After months of raising this pressing issue, I am very pleased to finally see that the Government will be moving forward with a concrete plan to eliminate these chemicals as I recommended in my Private Member's Bill". Kadis stated. "We need to ensure that we have all the necessary tools to protect the health of all Canadians and our environment through strong regulations and enforcement, rapid screening on chemical re-introduction and new uses, accelerated re-evaluation of older chemicals, and heightened surveillance, monitoring and research".

On December 16th, 2006, draft regulations on restricting the use of PBDE's are planned for the Canada Gazette, Part I.

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