



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

**Maria Minna, M.P. Beaches-East York**

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# *News Release*

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## **Minna's toxic substance bill draws praise from all sides**

OTTAWA – December 12, 2007 – Members from all parties in the House of Commons praised Beaches-East York Member of Parliament Maria Minna when her private member's bill adding perflurooctane sulfanate (PFOS) and its salts to the virtual elimination list under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act passed third reading on November 29, 2007.

"I want to thank her for getting the issue on the agenda," NDP MP Bill Siksay (Burnaby-Douglas) said during debate in the House of Commons.

"When Bill C-298 [Ms. Minna's bill] was introduced last year, the government had not yet announced the chemical management plan or its proposed actions on PFOS. I therefore congratulate the member for Beaches-East York for bringing this issue forward," James Lunney, Conservative MP (Nanaimo-Alberni) said.

During the debate, Bernard Bigras, Bloc Québécois MP (Rosemont-La Petite Patrie) said, "I am pleased to support the member for Beaches—East York's Bill C-298."

Liberal MP Mario Silva (Davenport) described Ms. Minna as having had "an illustrious career both in defence of immigrants and refugees across the country, and of women's issues along with her care and passion about the environment."

Ms. Minna said her private member's bill will go a long way in protecting the health of our children and the environment in the generations to come. "There are many more harmful chemicals out there that need to be removed as well.

We should expedite the testing of these chemicals in order to protect future generations,” she said.

Ms. Minna’s bill, which will soon be passed into law, also drew praise from environmental groups.

“Maria Minna’s perseverance on moving the PFOS bill forward in Parliament has prompted serious government action to restrict the dangerous substance.” Aaron Freeman of Environmental Defence Canada said.

Mariann Lloyd-Smith, Co-Chair, International POPs Elimination Network (Australia). said: “The Canadian PFOS bill will be another major advance in ridding the world of this dangerous substance which is nominated for listing as a persistent organic pollutant by the Stockholm Convention.”

The bill, which was introduced by Ms. Minna in May 2006, deals with removing a very harmful chemical from our environment.

“PFOS is a very dangerous substance,” Ms. Minna says.

It has been used in many different areas. Consumer products that may contain PFOS include rugs, carpets, fabric, upholstery, clothing, food packaging and certain industrial and household cleaners. Other applications include firefighting foams, hydraulic fluids, carpet spot removers, mining and oil well applications and metal plating processes, such as chrome plating.

The most famous application of PFOS was in the Scotch guard products manufactured by 3M. 3M voluntarily stopped using PFOS in 2000 at the urging of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency citing the health and environmental dangers posed by the chemical.

In April 2004, Environment Canada and Health Canada completed their own assessments of PFOS and concluded that it met all criteria necessary for it to be added to Schedule 1 of CEPA, 1999 for regulation. The passage of Bill C-298 goes further to virtually eliminate it from our environment.

For more Information, please contact:

Hon. Maria Minna, MP  
Beaches-East York

613-992-2115  
416-467-0860