



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

Maria Minna, M.P. Beaches-East York

News Release

Minna's toxic substance bill becomes law

For immediate release

OTTAWA – April 17, 2008 – After a long process of passing through the House of Commons and the Senate, Ms. Minna's Private Member's Bill C-298, *An Act to add Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and its salts to the Virtual Elimination List under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, received royal assent and became law today.

"This is a tremendous victory today for the health of our families and the protection of our environment," said Ms. Minna. "I have been pursuing this issue for over two years now and I am pleased to see that PFOS will now be listed for virtual elimination. The international community will now look at Canada for its leadership role in ridding our environment of this dangerous chemical. It is my hope that this will push this government to pressure the international community to have PFOS listed as a persistent organic pollutant by the Stockholm Convention"

Ms. Minna's bill drew praise from all sides and has received international attention.

"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.”

PFOS 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.

It is not common for a Private Member's Bill to pass through both Houses of Parliament and receive royal assent. This is a great achievement that all Canadians can be proud of.

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