

Secretariat Office
468 Queen St E., Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5A 1T7
Phone: (416) 597 1266
Fax: (416) 597 8365
www.chiefs-of-ontario.org



Head Office
1 Migizii Miikan, PO Box 711
Nipissing First Nation
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
Phone: (705) 476 0999
Fax: (416) 597 8365
1 877 517 6527

July 31, 2025

Treat email as original

Hon. Mike Harris Jr.
Minister of Natural Resources
Witney Block, 99 Wellesley Street
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Minister.mnrf@ontario.ca

RE: Spraying of glyphosate-based herbicide on managed forests

Wa'tkwanonwera:ton/Greetings, Minister Harris Jr.,

I am writing to notify you of a decision by the Ontario First Nations Leadership to call for glyphosate-based herbicides to be abolished within the traditional territories of Ontario's First Nations. This decision was made by the Chiefs-in-Assembly via resolution on June 17, 2025.

Glyphosate, classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a probable human carcinogen, continues to be sprayed over Ontario's forests for chemical site preparation and conifer release. Ontario First Nations—who depend on these lands and waterways for food, water, and cultural traditions—are being involuntarily exposed to this hazardous chemical through government-sanctioned spraying.

Scientific research and Indigenous Knowledge confirm that glyphosate destroys ecosystems, harms biodiversity, and contaminates water sources. Exposure to glyphosate has been linked to cancer, hormone disruption, microbiome damage, and reproductive harm, yet the Province of Ontario continues to allow its use, disproportionately harming our Nations in Northern Ontario.

Just this week, news of an upcoming spray program was [published](#) by SOO Today. Glyphosate-based aerial spray is scheduled to occur across the province in August, despite the fact that the federal court ordered the federal government to reassess its 2022 approval of glyphosate earlier this year on February 20, 2025.

Safer, proven alternatives exist. Quebec banned glyphosate in 2001 and replaced herbicide spraying with manual thinning crews—proving that sustainable forest management without harmful chemicals is possible. International certification bodies such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) are actively working toward the reduction and eventual elimination of glyphosate use worldwide.

Chiefs of Ontario stands in solidarity with Knowledge Keepers, First Nations and organizations across Ontario, who have long fought against aerial glyphosate spraying. Many First Nations and Political Territorial Organizations have passed resolutions calling for a ban, and numerous petitions have been submitted to the Provincial Government—yet the spraying continues.

The Chiefs of Ontario hereby formally call on the Government of Ontario to:

- Immediately abolish glyphosate-based herbicides within the traditional territories of Ontario's First Nations; and
- Work directly with Ontario First Nations to implement sustainable, non-toxic alternatives, while providing capacity and resources to do so.

I look forward to your response and would appreciate a detailed plan for how the ministry will be addressing these concerns.

Sken:nen/In Peace,



Abram Benedict
Ontario Regional Chief

CC: Leadership Council
Julie Hill, Chief of Staff, Ontario Regional Chief's Office, COO
Kathleen Padulo, Director of Environment, COO
Hon. Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health
Jade Mallette, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, Health Canada
Jennifer Saxe, ADM, Pest Management Regulatory Agency