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**DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER JENNIFER BAICHWAL
CALLS ON CANADA'S MINISTER OF HEALTH TO BAN GLYPHOSATE
AND REDUCE PESTICIDE USE
TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH + THE ENVIRONMENT**

Baichwal's latest documentary Into the Weeds: Dewayne Lee Johnson vs. Monsanto Company is season opener for CBC's Passionate Eye tonight

Virtual Roundtable Event "A Future Without Glyphosate: Is it Possible?" hosted by celebrated activist Avi Lewis + guests on Weds, September 21st

September 16, 2022 (Toronto, ON) Glyphosate is Canada's most widely sold pesticide - used in agriculture as an herbicide and a desiccant, in forestry to kill unwanted target trees and vegetation, and as an herbicide on rights-of-way, commercial and residential grounds, golf courses, schools and other landscapes.

In the U.S. and in Canada, glyphosate is still approved for use. However, with more concerning [health](#) and [biodiversity studies](#) coming to light, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency have been mandated to revisit their decision-making on glyphosate.

This fall will be a crucial moment for action against glyphosate and *Into The Weeds* director Jennifer Baichwal is launching an impact campaign to raise awareness and help influence policy change around the world.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITION launched today

Supported by notable Canadians and numerous health and environmental NGOs, Baichwal has submitted a parliamentary petition calling on the federal Minister of Health to (1) Ban the sale and use of glyphosate to protect human health and the environment; and (2) Develop a comprehensive plan to reduce overall pesticide use in Canada.

Baichwal hopes to gather a significant number of signatures over the next 120 days.
PETITION TO BAN GLYPHOSATE

Initial supporters of the ban span the country and include activist and author **Naomi Klein**; agro-environmental farmer **Jessie MacInnis** of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia; **Dr. Raquel Feroe**, medical specialist of Edmonton, Alberta; **James Steidle**, woodworker and founder of Stop the Spray BC from Prince George, and Indigenous Elder **Raymond Owl**, co-founder of TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) Elders of the North Shore of Lake Huron and member of the Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation.

Organisations supporting the petition include: **Friends of The Earth, Environmental Defence, Ecojustice, The David Suzuki Foundation, Safe Food Matters, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and Prevent Cancer Now.**

"We're falling behind world leaders on protecting human health and biodiversity - we need real leadership from the federal government on reducing pesticides."

~ **Cassie Barker, Toxics Senior Program Manager, Environmental Defence**

"From the point of view of the documented adverse human health outcomes, there is certainty about the justification for a ban on glyphosate. Children born after parental exposure to glyphosate have higher levels of craniofacial defects, small head circumference, more or fewer fingers, cleft palate and congenital heart defects. ADHD is higher in children of glyphosate applicators. Farmers exposed to glyphosate had a 20% decrease in fertility. Breast cancer incidence is increased among women who live or work on farms where glyphosate has been used. IARC [International Agency for Research on Cancer] has classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans." For human and environmental health, the time for a ban on glyphosate is now."

~ **Dr. Jane McArthur, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment**

INTO THE WEEDS opens the season for CBC's Passionate Eye + streams on CBC Gem

Broadcast premiere: September 16th @ 8PM EST

Streaming for free on CBC Gem following the broadcast

<https://www.cbc.ca/passionateeye/episodes/into-the-weeds>

Into the Weeds (Hot Docs opening night film for 2022) follows former groundskeeper Dewayne "Lee" Johnson in his fight for justice against agrochemical giant Monsanto (now owned by Bayer). Johnson's was the first case to go to trial in a mass tort wherein thousands of individuals claimed that Monsanto's popular weed killer Roundup, or its commercial counterpart Ranger Pro, contributed to their cancer. The ongoing litigation has focused largely on Roundup's controversial active ingredient, glyphosate, which was classified by the UN's International Agency for Research on Cancer as "probably carcinogenic to humans" in 2015. Johnson and his fellow plaintiffs' cases have had a profound impact on the global fight against glyphosate.

"Lee Johnson and his lawyers are true heroes - they told the truth and shifted the narrative on glyphosate. A big thanks to Jennifer for sharing their story. The free pass given to industry for pesticides is shameful, and needs to be rescinded."

~**Mary Lou McDonald, Founder, Safe Food Matters**

"A FUTURE WITHOUT GLYPHOSATE: IS IT POSSIBLE?" hosted by Avi Lewis

Virtual Roundtable

Wednesday September 21st, 8pm ET

[Register with Facebook/ Facebook Live](#)

[Register with Eventbrite](#)

In collaboration with leading health and environmental NGOs, this online event will be hosted and moderated by well-known social and political commentator and UBC associate professor **Avi Lewis**, and will feature director Jennifer Baichwal, alongside guests including: medical specialist **Dr. Raquel Feroe** from Edmonton; University of Guelph School of Environmental Sciences' Assistant Professor **Susan Bell Chiblow** from Grand River First Nation; lawyer **Mary Lou McDonald**, founder of Safe Food Matters; and to-be-confirmed speakers from the regenerative farming community.

Impact campaign website + social media

www.intotheweedsimpact.com

[@intotheweedsdoc](#)

Interview Requests + Media Inquiries:

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