

# **SPREADING OF BIOSOLIDS FROM THE UNITED STATES: THREE PROFESSIONAL ORDERS ASK THE POPULATION AND THE GOVERNMENT TO THE GREATEST CAUTION/**

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**Order of Chemists of Quebec**

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MONTREAL , Dec. 8 2, 2022 /CNW Telbec/ - The Order of Chemists of Quebec (OCQ), the Order of Agronomists of Quebec (OAQ) and the Order of Veterinary Physicians of Quebec (OMVQ) express in unison their greatest concern regarding the recent evolution of the reality of the use of municipal biosolids in agriculture and for other applications , which has been the subject of journalistic reports in recent days. “Biosolids” are a category of fertilizing residual materials that come in the form of sludge resulting from the treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater.

Due to the disturbing presence of various contaminants of emerging interest, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in some of these biosolids, such as those imported into Quebec from the United States (USA), the three professional orders recommend that the public and businesses refrain from using municipal and industrial biosolids from the United States, in particular from the State of Maine . Likewise, it is also recommended not to use compost to which such biosolids are added or any other by-product.

The three professional orders also take note of the intention expressed by the Government of Quebec to tighten the regulations regarding the use of these materials and to prohibit their importation. In this sense, the three professional orders recall that it is urgent to legislate concerning contaminants of emerging interest, in order to better list them and equip professionals who need a clear framework on which to base their decisions while protecting the public. The three professional orders ask the government to be involved in the modernization of the appropriate regulations and offer their full cooperation in bringing them into force as soon as possible.

More broadly, the three professional orders invite the public, businesses and the government to carry out an important collective reflection on the recovery of

our residual materials and taking into account the associated risk for health and the environment.

“PFAS and other contaminants of emerging interest are very persistent in the environment, bioaccumulative and their harmful impacts on health are well documented. Chemists and biochemists are experts in chemical substances and their various interactions. Several of them are hard at work characterizing sewage sludge in an exhaustive manner and developing decontamination and recovery solutions in accordance with our mission to protect the public,” says the president of the OCQ, Mr. Michel Alsayegh \_

“The agronomist plays a key role in the recycling of fertilizing residual materials, in addition to having public protection as his primary concern. The scientific data that fuels the debate on the recycling of fertilizing residual materials is evolving rapidly. We are asking the responsible authorities to take action to provide professionals and the public with a clear and safe framework from a public health perspective that takes into account the social acceptability of development projects,” said the president of the OAQ. , Mrs. Martine Giguère.

“The problem reported by the media lately raises many questions and concerns. In keeping with our mission as a professional order and the protection of animal and human health, the veterinary profession is a major player in terms of public health. The Order therefore offers its full cooperation to the authorities concerned in the search for ways to improve this problem”, declared the President of the OMVQ, Dr. Gaston Rioux .

#### About the Order of Chemists of Quebec

The Ordre des chimistes du Québec has nearly 3,000 members working in sectors as varied as health, the environment, the judiciary, food and research. Its mission is to ensure the protection of the Quebec public in the practice of chemistry, which is omnipresent in the lives of Quebecers. Founded in 1926, the Order was one of the first professional organizations governed by the adoption of *the Professional Code* in 1973.

#### About the Order of Agronomists of Quebec

In keeping with its mandate to protect the public, the Ordre des agronomes du Québec ensures the quality of the services rendered by its some 3,300 members. To achieve this, it verifies the competence of people who wish to join the Order, it monitors the practice of the profession and it supports the maintenance and enhancement of the professional competence of agronomists.

### About the Order of Veterinary Physicians of Quebec

The Order of Veterinary Physicians of Quebec is an organization, constituted under the *Professional Code* and the *Veterinary Physicians Act*, which brings together more than 2,700 veterinarians in Quebec. Its mandate is to protect the public by promoting quality veterinary medicine aimed at improving animal welfare and maintaining public health.

SOURCES Order of chemists of Quebec - Order of agronomists of Quebec - Order of veterinarians of Quebec

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