



# BAN TOXIC PBDEs

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

**We, the Undersigned Citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House to the following:**

**WHEREAS,** The most common and potentially toxic fire retardants are additive compounds called polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), which have a similar chemical structure to PCBs;

**WHEREAS,** Like PCBs, PBDEs are persistent in the environment and have been accumulating in the bodies of humans, orcas, whales, salmon and other animals;

**WHEREAS** North American women carry levels of PBDE in their breast milk that are 10 times higher than European women;

**WHEREAS,** Health consequences attributed to the use of flame retardants with PBDEs include memory impairment, suppression of the immune system, disruption of thyroid function, and defects in the developing fetus;

**WHEREAS,** the European Union and many states in the U.S., have banned the manufacture and import of Goods containing the most toxic forms of PBDEs;

**WHEREAS,** alternative fire retardants are available that do not pose a risk to human health and will not persist in the environment;

**THEREFORE,** your petitioners call upon the House of Commons to support Motion M-275 in the name of Mr. Peter Julian, MP for Burnaby-New Westminster:

*“That, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize that fire retardants containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) pose a danger to people, animals and the environment, and that legislation completely phasing out the production and import of products containing additive PBDEs should be brought forth within a year”.*

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