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## <sup>1800</sup> Don't eat harbor fish, doctor urges

TORONTO (CP) — Dr. Jim Stopps, senior medical consultant in the environment health branch of the Ontario health ministry, says fish caught in the Toronto and Hamilton Harbors should not be eaten because many of them contain potentially dangerous levels of chemical compounds known as polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs).

PCBs, used extensively in North America since the early 1930s, now are under strict government control and are used only as a lubricant for transformers and capacitors in the electrical industry.

There have been no reports of danger to human health but biologists have found baby gulls in areas of high PCP concentrations with bills that will not close and toes growing out of a knee.

"There are too many gaps in our knowledge to take chances," says Dr.

Stopps.

"The fish in the two harbors are loaded with all kinds of contaminants, including the PCBs and heavy metal such as mercury, lead and cadmium.

Research on the effects of the compounds started in the late 1960s, but little is known about them so far.

Ontario Hydro is the major user of PCBs in the province and has been storing waste PCBs in 45-gallon drums since it discovered the dangers, says Robert Strom, a research engineer at Hydro.

"We stored it because it wasn't until a few months ago that a company near Buffalo, N.Y., got a licence to dispose of it," he says.

"Ontario Hydro's policy now is not to buy anything with PCBs unless there is no other choice."