Consultation Is Referendum-In-Disguise

Trevor Ely  Elements Lawn Maintenance  February 17th, 2010
Salmon Arm Observer  British Columbia  Adapted excerpts

The British Columbia government in the August [ 2009 ] throne speech committed to a CONSULTATION with the public on « new statutory protections to further safeguard the environment from cosmetic chemical pesticides ». 

In my opinion, this is a referendum in disguise. The politicians, instead of acting responsibly, have opted to pass the buck on an important policy making decision. Only scientific experts, on both sides of the debate, and the Green Space Industry should have been included in the process.

Allowing the UNQUALIFIED PUBLIC to guide the process in legislating a ban on the so called « cosmetic pesticides » ( or anything for that matter ) is ABSURD, and sets a reckless precedent for policy making in the future.

The majority of British Columbians certainly have not had an opportunity to gather or listen to the information they would require to form a well–educated point–of–view.

Anti–pesticide organizations, to their credit, have been conducting a well–orchestrated public campaign for many years. These groups today are organized, well–funded and powerful.

Unfortunately, the information put forth by these groups is VERY MISLEADING, and sometimes TOTALLY INCORRECT. Now they have stolen the show.

In addition, it is difficult for the average person to find trustworthy information sources that are unbiased.

As trendy green consumerism is at an all–time high, the stage has been set for a ban. The science behind pesticides has become politicized.

LIES and MISINFORMATION, in place of sound science and good government, is leading the way.

Tragically, the debate has become a popularity contest.
Our long journey with environmental issues is...