PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

March 4, 2009

[redacted]

In 2006, the Ministry of Environment conducted public consultations and heard the full spectrum of concerns ranging from those who would like pesticides banned to those who thought the responsible use of pesticides should continue. As a result, the Ministry of Environment developed an internal pesticide use policy. The Ministry's policy is not to ban the cosmetic use of herbicide but rather to increase the awareness of the public, encouraging the use of alternative methods for weed control while allowing the responsible use of herbicides.

In 2007-08, Erin Consulting Ltd. was asked by the Ministry to develop educational materials focusing on alternatives to herbicide use for weed control. The following two documents have been developed:

1. "Reducing the cosmetic use of herbicides in Saskatchewan – A Teacher's Guide"
2. "Reducing the cosmetic use of herbicides in Saskatchewan – Resource material for the public"

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These draft documents are being reviewed and will soon be made public. The informational guide for the public will be available on the Ministry's website (www.environment.gov.sk.ca) for the general public and the Teacher's Guide will be used to introduce it as a part of the curriculum in schools for students in Grades 7-10.

With regard to banning the sale and use of herbicides, the most common herbicide 2,4-D was recently re-assessed by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. They concluded that this herbicide could be used safely according to the label directions for a variety of lawn, turf and agricultural applications. In view of this development, we are pursuing our policy by educating the public and encouraging them to use alternate methods of weed control at this time.

Once again, thank you for your email and for sharing your concerns with me.

Brad Wall
Premier

cc Honourable Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment