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The Wisdom of Lorne Hepworth



The Benefits of Safe Pest Control Products

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Lorne Hepworth

bclocalnews.com

Letter to the Editor

As (the City of Revelstoke, British Columbia) considers whether to ban the use of urban pesticides, I hope council will carefully consider the BENEFITS these products offer.

Well-maintained public and private spaces make for HAPPIER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, and pesticides PROTECT these valuable properties from potentially damaging insects, weeds, or diseases.

While a recent article in the Revelstoke Times Review suggests the health of our communities is threatened by pesticides, the fact of the matter is that Canada has one of the MOST STRINGENT PESTICIDE REGULATORY SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD.

Health Canada THOROUGHLY REVIEWS any pesticide before it is approved for sale in this country.

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*Well-maintained public and private spaces
make for HAPPIER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES,
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Health Canada undertakes a COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW of all available credible scientific studies to ensure that the product WILL NOT cause harm to people, animals, or the environment, when used according to the directions.

As such, if a pesticide posed the kind of risk suggested in the Revelstoke Times Review article, it would NOT be approved for sale in Canada.

ARBITRARY pesticide bans DO NOTHING to protect citizens.

They merely create a situation where homeowners and municipalities are unable to use Health Canada-Approved products to PROPERLY PROTECT THEIR INVESTMENTS IN URBAN LANDSCAPING.

Canada's Plant Science Industry welcomes questions about our products, and looks forward to future opportunities to set the record straight about the safety of our products and our industry's commitment to people, public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lorne Hepworth

Lorne Hepworth

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Dr. Lorne Hepworth is President of CropLife Canada (formerly Crop Protection Institute of Canada) since 1997, as well as its past Vice-President.

CropLife Canada is the trade association representing the manufacturers, developers, and distributors of plant science innovations — pest control products and plant biotechnology — for use in agriculture, urban and public health settings.

Hepworth is chief spokesperson, responsible for overall strategic direction and management.

Hepworth is a member of the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council.

He has served on the federal government's Pest Management Advisory Committee and National Biotechnology Advisory Committee; and chaired CropLife International's Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture Committee.

Hepworth is a graduate of Western College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Saskatchewan.

He was a veterinarian in Alberta and Saskatchewan until 1982, when he was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Constituency of Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

Hepworth served nine years in the Saskatchewan Cabinet, holding portfolios for Agriculture, Education, Finance, and Energy and Mines.

Hepworth maintains a grain farm near Assiniboia, Saskatchewan.

In Letters to the Editor across Canada, Hepworth has personally spoken out against activist and prohibitions on a very frequent basis.

Here are examples of some of Hepworth's media comments —

« *It's a shame that the Ontario government is unwilling to do the hard work of giving due consideration to the many sides of a thorny issue when there is a vocal minority to appease. Such is the case with Ontario's decision to ban pesticide use on lawns and gardens — a decision that is both short-sighted and misguided.* »

« [The ...] *misleading characterization of the Ontario College of Family Physicians' review of pesticide literature is a disgrace, although it is typical of activist groups, such as the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, which search far and wide for support of the extreme anti-pesticide position, and yet continue to find themselves unable to point to anything better than the 2004 family physicians' report which is a literature review, not an actual scientific study.* »



*Knowledge is
of no value
unless you put it
into practice*