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CITY & REGION

Cavers to again raise cosmetic pesticide ban in council

A Kamloops councillor pledged Thursday to reintroduce a motion to ban all application of cosmetic pesticides in the City after a legislative committee declined the recommendation.

An eight-member government committee — five Liberals, three New Democrats — was appointed last June to examine the scope of a possible ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.

After 8,675 submissions, 22 meetings and presentations from environmental groups, industry organizations, scientific organizations and academics, the committee made 17 recommendations, but did not call for a ban on the pesticides used to ensure a perfect lawn and weed-free garden.

In that absence, Coun. Donovan Cavers said he will bring back a motion to ban application of pesticides in Kamloops, other than for farm uses.

“I’m definitely going to reintroduce my motion,” said Cavers, a former Green party candidate elected to council for the first time last year.

Cavers agreed in February to withdraw his motion until the committee made its recommendations.

But council may be trumped by Premier Christy Clark, who made such a ban a campaign promise.

During her 2011 leadership campaign she pledged to get rid of pesticides.

Committee chairman Bill Bennett suggested he was slightly pre-disposed to supporting a ban for health reasons, but wasn’t convinced it was needed after reviewing the evidence.

“If I was convinced that we needed to do this, I would definitely have been there,” he said.

The NDP members on the committee issued a minority report calling for a ban.

Jacquie Doherty, owner of Grassroots Lawn Care in Kamloops, said she was pleased the committee opted for a “science-based approach.”

“I hope council appreciates the work the provincial government went through. Coun. Cavers has never done that. They’d be making a decision based on personal beliefs, not the facts.”

Kamloops North MLA and Environment Minister Terry Lake said he’ll reserve comment until he has a chance to read the full report.

“Until I read the report I don’t really know,” he said, acknowledging that as mayor he supported a ban.

Lake took a resolution to the Union of B.C. Municipalities in 2008 asking for a provincewide ban — it passed with an 85-per cent majority.

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