



Mobile Edition

Jobs Travel Classifieds Weather
Friday, 5/18/2012 10:15 pm

MAPLERIDGENEWS.com

Search Site SEARCH

HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY LIFESTYLES OPINION BC GAMES

CONTESTS OBITS E-EDITION

BC NEWS

part of bcclocalnews.com



BC Daily Deals

\$29 for 60 Minute Acupuncture Session at CommuniQi Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic

price: **\$29**

value: \$60 discount: 52% save: \$31

BUY NOW!

Maple Ridge News - BC News

TEXT

1 COMMENT

EMAIL LETTER PRINT FOLLOW SHARE

B.C. gov't backs away from banning lawn pesticides

By **Phil Melnychuk - Maple Ridge News**

Published: **May 18, 2012 11:00 AM**

Updated: **May 18, 2012 2:03 PM**

MLA Michael Sather can't figure it out.

When a committee formed last year to look at banning cosmetic pesticides on lawns and gardens, he thought Premier Christy Clark favoured the idea.

But Thursday, the Liberal-dominated committee nixed the idea, instead deciding that lawn pesticides should be treated like tobacco, kept out of sight, and available at retail counters only by request.

"I'm mystified by the whole process – unless it was part of Liberals trying to be more Conservative," said Sather, who sat on the legislative committee that studied the issue.

Perhaps the decision has to do with internal division – "just not doing what the premier directed them to do."

Maple Ridge resident Maria Reynolds, who led the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction, leading to a Maple Ridge ban in 2007, doesn't understand, either.

"It's just incomprehensible to me after all those submissions ... that all they could come up with is that the government is doing enough ... When the evidence all points to the opposite."

Reynolds said it doesn't take much common sense to know there's a connection between the poisons put into the environment and people's health. But even if a link has not been proven, there's no need to use cosmetic pesticides. "Everything grows beautifully without them."

The decision was "devastating" for her, but added there are "rays of hope."

Pitt Meadows, on March 1, banned lawn and garden pesticides, while Abbotsford is considering the same.

Maple Ridge's ban has been in place for five years and seems to be working well, Reynolds said. The ban doesn't prohibit selling pesticides, but many garden shops and home supply stores no longer carry them, she added.

Under Maple Ridge's bylaw, anyone who wants to use pesticides or herbicides has to apply for a permit.

Many B.C. municipalities have now banned cosmetic pesticides, she said, adding the initiative is coming from the grass roots up.



Maria Reynolds led the local campaign to ban cosmetic pesticides. *The NEWS/files*

SHARE THIS STORY

Recommend Send

0

Recommend this on Google

3 & 4 BEDROOM HOMES FROM \$409,900

THE FOOTHILLS BURNABY MOUNTAIN

WHERE YOU LIVE

MAY 25 to JUNE 10

BRAVO! BURNABY

presented by TOURISM BURNABY

Click here for a detailed schedule and your chance to win a dinner & hotel package or visit: bravoburnaby.com

"These corporations have so much influence they're just about dictating everything."

Barbara Kaminsky, CEO, Canadian Cancer Society, B.C. and Yukon, opposed the decision against a ban.

"We waited years for the B.C. government to follow the lead of other provinces and B.C. municipalities, and this is the result? The report was slow in coming and is weak in content. It is disappointing overall," she said in a release.

The groups – which include the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the Lung Association, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Public Health Association of B.C. – had requested strong legislation banning the sale and use of all pesticides for lawns, gardens and non-agricultural landscaping.

The joint release from the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment said during the two public consultations the B.C. government has conducted (in 2010 and 2011), most of the 8,000 people who responded wanted a ban.

But Kamloops MLA Bill Bennett said in a release there wasn't enough evidence to warrant a ban and that Health Canada didn't recommend it.

"The majority of the committee concluded that we could not justify second guessing the 350 scientists who work at Health Canada," he added.

"There simply is not enough evidence that justifies an outright ban on cosmetic pesticide use. We are not prepared to tell homeowners that they cannot purchase federally-approved domestic-class pesticides or hire a qualified contractor to apply these federally-approved weed and bug control products to their lawn."

Sather, though, pointed out that Health Canada usually focuses on animal studies, while epidemiological studies make connections between cancer and chemical exposure. It's much like the smoking issue, where it's not easy to make a direct, causal link between the disease.

"But over the years, it became evident that smoking is linked to cancer."

Sather was disappointed and thought the committee would come to a different conclusion quickly. "Clearly, Bill Bennett dragged it out at great length, all to no reason."

[Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia](#) have all banned cosmetic pesticides.

• The [committee](#) made 17 recommendations including restricting the sale and use of commercial-class pesticides, enhancing the enforcement of existing regulations, strengthening public education, and training related to the use of pesticides. Recommendations were also directed towards retail regulations, the golf industry, and the safe disposal of unwanted pesticides.

Ads by Google

[Equipment Service Burnaby](#)
 Call 604-634-2320 For Great Prices On Industrial Equipment.
[MancorIndustrialSalesLtd.ca](#)

[Canadian Housing Trends](#)
 Latest Forecasts, Data & Analysis From CMHC. Download Your Report Now
[cmhc.ca/HousingMarketInformation](#)

[Notary Public Services](#)
 Get Expert Notary Services. Wills, Mortgages & More. Call 778-785-1313
[www.MacDonaldBoyleAndJeffery.ca](#)

[Burnaby Rain Barrel](#)
 Looking For A Rain Barrel? We Can Help. Call Us At 604-200-5970
[www.PrecisionGutters.com](#)

TEXT [+]

1 COMMENT

EMAIL LETTER PRINT FOLLOW SHARE

COMMENTS

COMMENTING ETIQUETTE: To encourage open exchange of ideas in the BCLocalNews.com community, we ask that you follow [our guidelines](#) and respect standards. Personal attacks, offensive language and unsubstantiated allegations are not allowed. [More on etiquette...](#)



CALENDAR

MAY 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

ADD YOUR EVENT

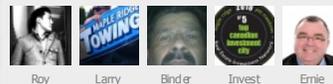
Find out what's happening in your community and submit your own local events.

[All Community Events](#)

The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News on Facebook

Like

450 people like The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News.



Facebook social plugin



Recent Activity

- [Maple Ridge News - Turning around a very bad day](#)
156 people recommend this.
- [Maple Ridge News - Crash closes Lougheed Highway in Maple Ridge](#)
10 people recommend this.
- [Maple Ridge News - Food revolution at Maple Ridge farmers' market](#)
31 people recommend this.
- [Maple Ridge News - Pit bulls that attacked cows in Pitt Meadows put down](#)
69 people recommend this.
- [Maple Ridge News - Sex assault charges stem from Maple Ridge daycare](#)
38 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

What Twitter is saying about



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Norah G Fon (Change)

Comment



Elizabeth Rosenau · Top Commenter · Maple Ridge, British Columbia

Bill Bennett: "There simply is not enough evidence that justifies an outright ban on cosmetic pesticide use." And guess what? With the dismantling of so much of our Federal civil service working in scientific fields and the muzzling of those still left, evidence is very unlikely to be coming forward soon. The precautionary principle means nothing to these people.

The people profiting from the sales of these pesticides won't be the ones paying for cancer treatments. Nope. That will be us, the hapless taxpayers. Of course, that's really nothing compared to those who may be paying with their lives because of government inaction.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · 6 hours ago

Facebook social plugin

#pittmeadows

sarahnelson71 Elementary Band program for grades 6 & 7 in #SD42 - see attached ad for information. #PittMeadows #MapleRidge pic.twitter.com/FT1y7gM
21 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Family4inPM When friends ask why I live in the rainy Lower Mainland, these are the evenings I tell them about. #mapleridge #PittMeadows
42 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

mapleridgeslex RT @sarahnelson71: #RickHansen's speech at #PittMeadows yesterday. A reminder we can all be change makers! #SD42 ow.ly/aZsvE
about 1 hour ago · reply · retweet · favorite

mapleridgeslex RT @venyhowarth:

Join the conversation

site map

- Home
- + Our Team
- + Contact Us
- + Advertising Info
- News
- + BC News
- Sports
- + BC Sports
- Business
- + BC Business
- Entertainment
- + BC Arts & Entertainment

- Community
- + Calendar
- + Submit an Event
- Lifestyles
- + BC Lifestyles
- + Tourism Info
- + Wine Trails
- Opinion
- + BC Opinions
- + Letters
- + Web Poll
- + Blogs

- BC Games
- Obits
- e-Edition
- Classifieds
- Auto
- Travel
- Jobs
- Flyers
- Mobile Edition
- RSS

customer service

- Contact Us
- About Us
- Advertising Information
- Terms of Use
- Privacy Policy
- Paper Delivery
- Sign up for a Paper Route

partners

- Alberta Community Papers
- BC Community Papers
- BCLocalNews.com
- BCClassified.com
- BCDailyBuzz.com
- BCJobNetwork.com
- BCLocalHomes.com
- BCDailyDeals.com
- BCRenovation.ca
- Black Press
- Flyerland.ca
- Honolulu Star Advertiser
- Newsofahome.com
- Washington State Community Papers
- UsedCanada.com

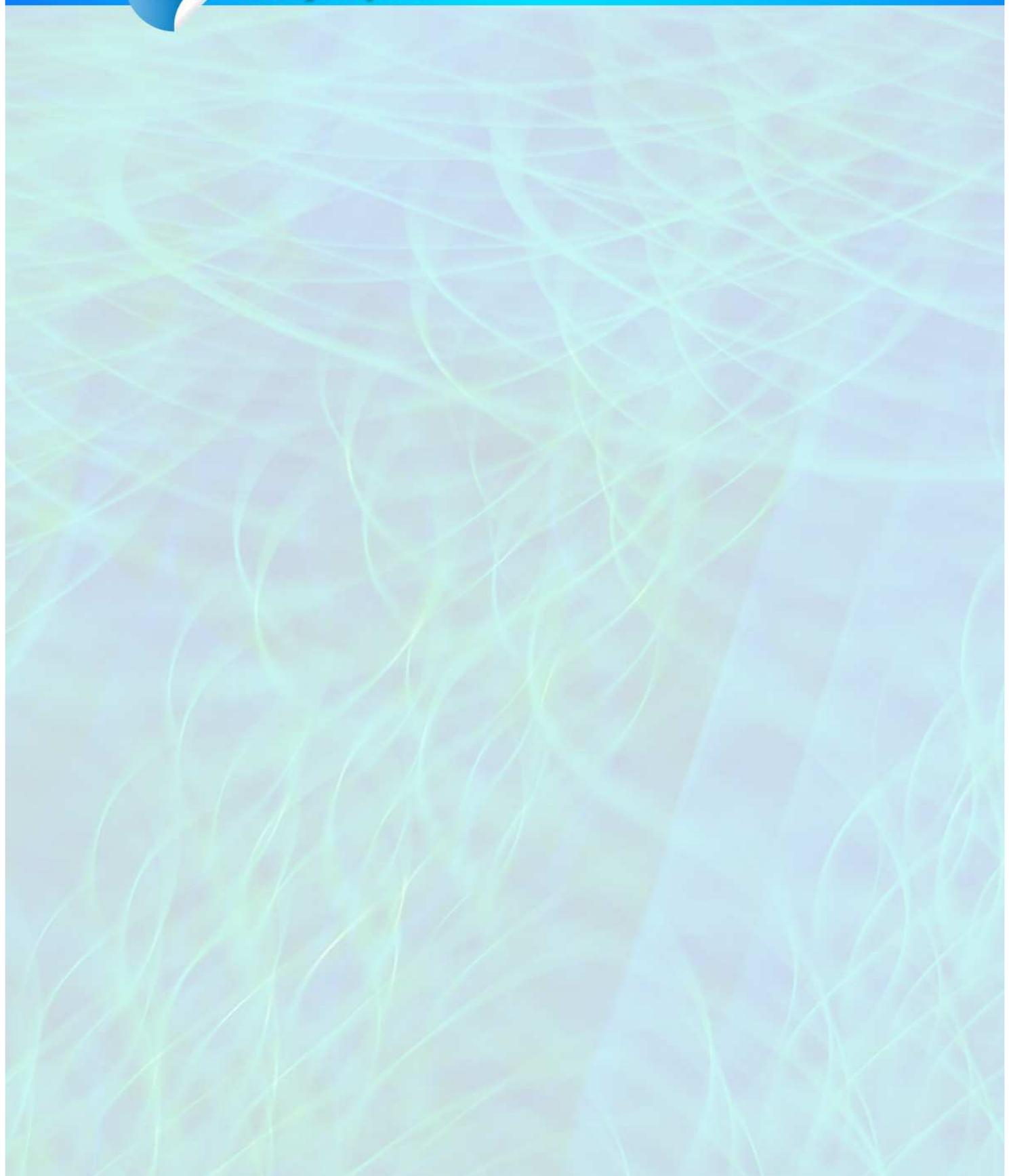
e-edition



Latest Edition
View every page of our most recent print edition, as well as an archive of past print editions.

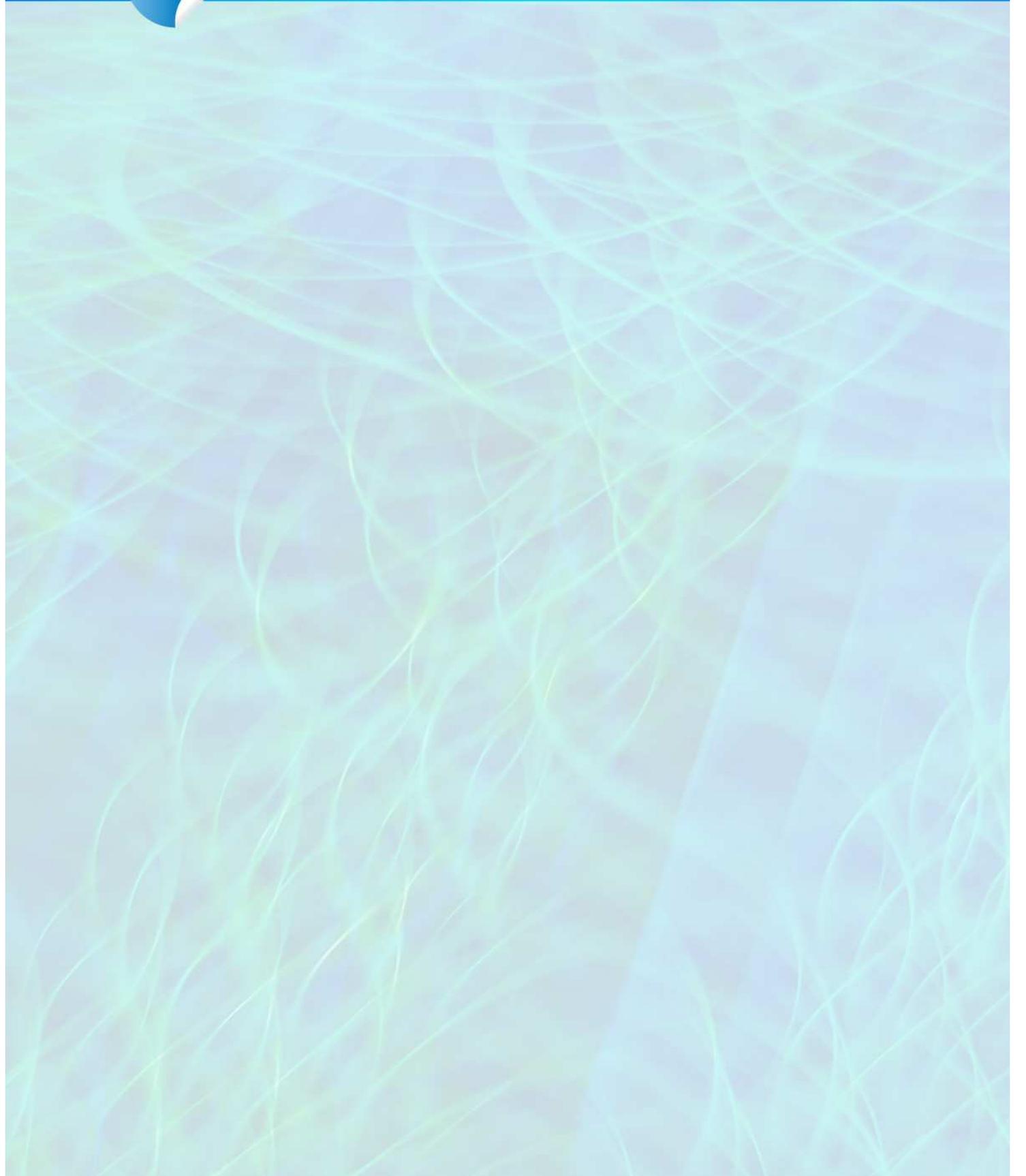
CLICK HERE FOR
CONTEST!

...win great prizes!



CLICK HERE FOR
CONTEST!

...win great prizes!



CLICK HERE FOR
CONTEST!

...win great prizes!

