

September 22, 2008

Letter to Editor  
Cranbrook Daily Townsman

Dear Editor:

Re: Coalition lobbies Kimberley council for a pesticide bylaw

As Kimberley Council looks at whether to implement a pesticide bylaw, we encourage council – and Kimberley residents – to look to science as the foundation for any changes to public policy and to give fair consideration to the many benefits these products deliver.

After all, pesticides help control threats to human health including mosquito-borne diseases and weed-induced allergies. They also protect private and public green spaces from insect and invasive weed infestations and help to ensure Canadians have a safe and affordable supply of fruit, vegetables and whole grains.

While we agree pesticides should be used responsibly and according to label directions, it is worrisome to see anti-pesticide crusaders overlook the thorough scientific process that each and every pesticide goes through, whether it is intended for agricultural, lawn and garden, forestry, or structural pest control, prior to being made available for use in Canada.

Through Health Canada, pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product, including pharmaceuticals, with special attention paid to ensuring that all Canadians, including infants, children, pregnant women and the elderly, are protected. Only those products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for sale and use.

CropLife Canada believes decisions regarding our health and environment are important and that they should be made based on the full weight of scientific evidence. We hope the residents of Kimberley will agree.

Yours truly,

Lorne Hepworth  
President, CropLife Canada - *representing the plant science industry*