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# Pesticide lobby group says their products are safe

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Editor,

As Revelstoke 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. It 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

President, CropLife Canada - representing the plant sciences industry

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