

# Cancer society pushes for B.C. pesticide ban

*Last Updated: Sunday, April 5, 2009 | 5:53 PM PT* [Comments41](#)[Recommend21](#)

[CBC News](#)

The Canadian Cancer Society is calling on the B.C. government to ban the sale of cosmetic pesticides — the chemicals used to kill weeds, insects or other pests for aesthetic reasons.

Quebec has a ban in place on using such pesticides, and a ban on selling them goes into effect in Ontario on Earth Day, April 22.

Kathryn Seely, the cancer society's manager of public issues, has been making the case to lawmakers in Victoria that B.C. should follow suit.

## **B.C. municipalities with pesticide bylaws in place**

- Victoria
- Comox
- Courtenay
- Cumberland
- Esquimalt
- Sechelt
- Gibsons
- Whistler
- West Vancouver
- North Vancouver
- Vancouver
- Maple Ridge
- Port Moody
- Burnaby
- New Westminster (comes into effect March 2010)
- Kelowna
- Nelson
- Invermere (comes into effect May 2009)

A growing body of evidence links pesticides to cancer, she said, including adult and childhood leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer and some brain cancers.

"The Canadian Cancer Society is concerned that there might be cancer-causing substances in pesticides," she said.

"We know that the evidence is suggestive, but it is growing.... There is some risk of harm, and the use of lawn and garden pesticides are non-essential. Many safe alternatives exist, and there's no health benefit to using lawn and garden pesticides."

Eighteen B.C. municipalities, including Vancouver and Victoria, have already banned the use of the chemicals, but it would take provincial action to ban selling them.

"The province can then eliminate the patchwork of the 18 municipal bylaws that exist across British Columbia so that all British Columbians are protected from exposure to unnecessary chemicals and pesticides," Seely said.

The Canadian Cancer Society is calling on all candidates running in the May provincial election to commit to implementing a B.C.-wide ban on the sale of cosmetic pesticides by next fall.

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**[peacefarmer](#) wrote:**Posted 2009/04/07

at 9:56 PM ETIt is certainly a big controversy and one I can understand. We in the farming community certainly don't buy massive amounts of chemicals for our crops just for the giggles or to make things look good. We do it to protect our crops from weed and diseases and insects. It costs a hell of a lot but not doing it would cost a lot more. Farming is a business.

As for cosmetic applications on lawns and such, I guess you have a choice. Weeds and bugs or not so many. None of these chemicals are a cure; only a control and require repeated applications because nature is very persistent.

Another thing to remember is that not all pesticides are created equal or are in general harmful to everything. Insecticides are not going to kill plants and herbicides won't kill bugs. As time goes by, they get more selective and, I believe, safer. There is no doubt that glyphosate is safer than Agent Orange. Not so many years ago, the seed treatment we used was mercury based. Now it is listed as virtually non toxic.

I can understand people's caution and fears about the use of chemicals but they also serve a very definite purpose.

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**[ChuckD.](#) wrote:**Posted 2009/04/07

at 9:55 PM ETThere should be an overall ban on all pesticide spraying. In April 1988 the fields across from my in-laws hobby farm outside of Chilliwack were sprayed,the over spray crossed over the Upper Prairie Road on to the in-laws property,my 11-year old son,Kenneth James Budau,was living with his grandparents,he was caught in the cloud of over spray. By August,my son had Stage 4 Hodgeskin's Disease (Lymphic Cancer). B.C.Sick Kids Hospital did all they could and used all theknown treatment known at the time,but Ken left us on Jan 2/93,9 days short of his 16th birthday. Ken wasn't the only one from the Chilliwack area to get Cancer from the spraying but it still goes on and the B.C.government turns a blind eye to it every year.

- [0](#)
- [0](#)

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**[themonsheshe](#) wrote:**Posted 2009/04/07

at 10:40 AM ETA few years ago I successfully sued a lawncare company for applying pesticides throughout my property while i was away. In doing so, through the research i did, I was utterly astonished at how the licensing for certain pesticides get approved and which companies are involved. Companies manufacturing pesticides provide our government with research regarding the environmental impact over a 10 year period. Companies like Bayer. Look around a little and you can find just how crazy this whole thing is. regardless of who tells you this is " harmless" those folks are out there and usually are in the business.

Imacloprid is possibly the most used pesticide available today. For some reason these chemicals are measured in Half lives, and in some cases get more powerful the longer they are around.

The whole thing is completely unethical and disgusting. My municipality recently banned cosmetic use and was behind the curve on that one.....

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- [0](#)

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**[Here's What I wrote](#)**: Posted 2009/04/07

at 8:50 AM ET Incredible, HawkMan, now you want me to do research for you. You are making claims that are even less substantiated than mine - where is YOUR credible science? I was mainly asking questions and pointing out the lack of objectiveness in your message - you are making statements as if they were fact - Why don't I throw your question back at you: "so what are the studies and what do they say?"

As for glysohate being less toxic than caffeine, that is the most ridiculous blanket statement I've heard in a while. An acute dose of anything will kill you (outdated LD50 testing).

Your post is completely unconvincing.

- [0](#)
- [1](#)

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**[Cascade hogger wrote](#)**: Posted 2009/04/07

at 12:07 AM ET Great for the Canadian Cancer society pushing this ban, but will Gordo listen to them or some corporate lobbyist. Should be brought to the forefront of this election. Its time to start cleaning up the earth and we all have to do are part.

From the individual, community, province, and country its a big task that must come to fruition for the future of all.

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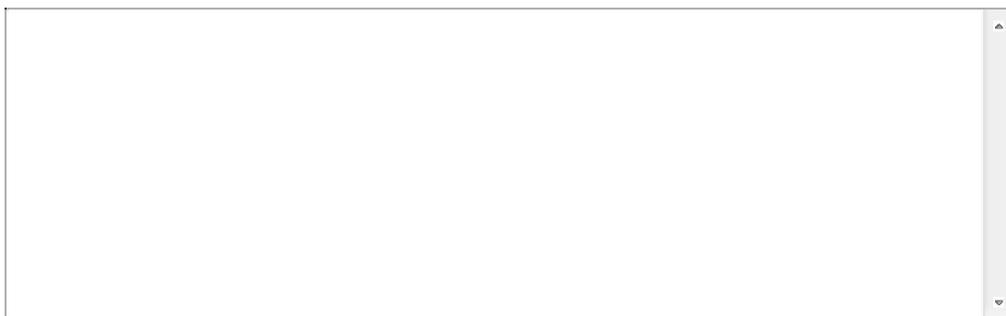
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