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Thirty Communities Back BC Pesticide Ban

VANCOUVER, Nov. 24, 2011 /CNW/ - Thirty BC municipalities have passed motions supporting a province-wide ban on lawn and garden pesticides, according to a list released today by the Canadian Cancer Society.

In calculating the total population of the municipalities in support, the Society found that the number of British Columbians living in these municipalities is over 1.8 million.

"When we began compiling these statistics, while we thought the number would be large, we didn't know the number would be this large," said the Canadian Cancer Society's Kathryn Seely. "An extraordinary number of British Columbians - in both rural areas and cities - support a common-sense ban on lawn pesticides."

The Canadian Cancer Society has long supported legislation that would outlaw the use and sale of lawn pesticides across British Columbia. (At present, 39 communities have municipal bans but there is no province-wide legislation).

Communities that support a ban include villages such as Harrison Hot Springs and Fernie along with cities such as Kelowna, Saanich, Richmond, and North Vancouver. More municipalities are joining the call each week.

"The proposed pesticide-ban has huge momentum," said Gideon Forman, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, whose group - representing 5,000 doctors and concerned citizens - supports the legislation. "It is a significant issue when 30 communities across the province are pressuring the government to take action!"

Scientific research shows people exposed to pesticides are at greater risk for cancer, reproductive problems, and neurological illness. Health organizations supporting a lawn and garden pesticide ban include the BC Lung Association, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Public Health Association of BC.

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