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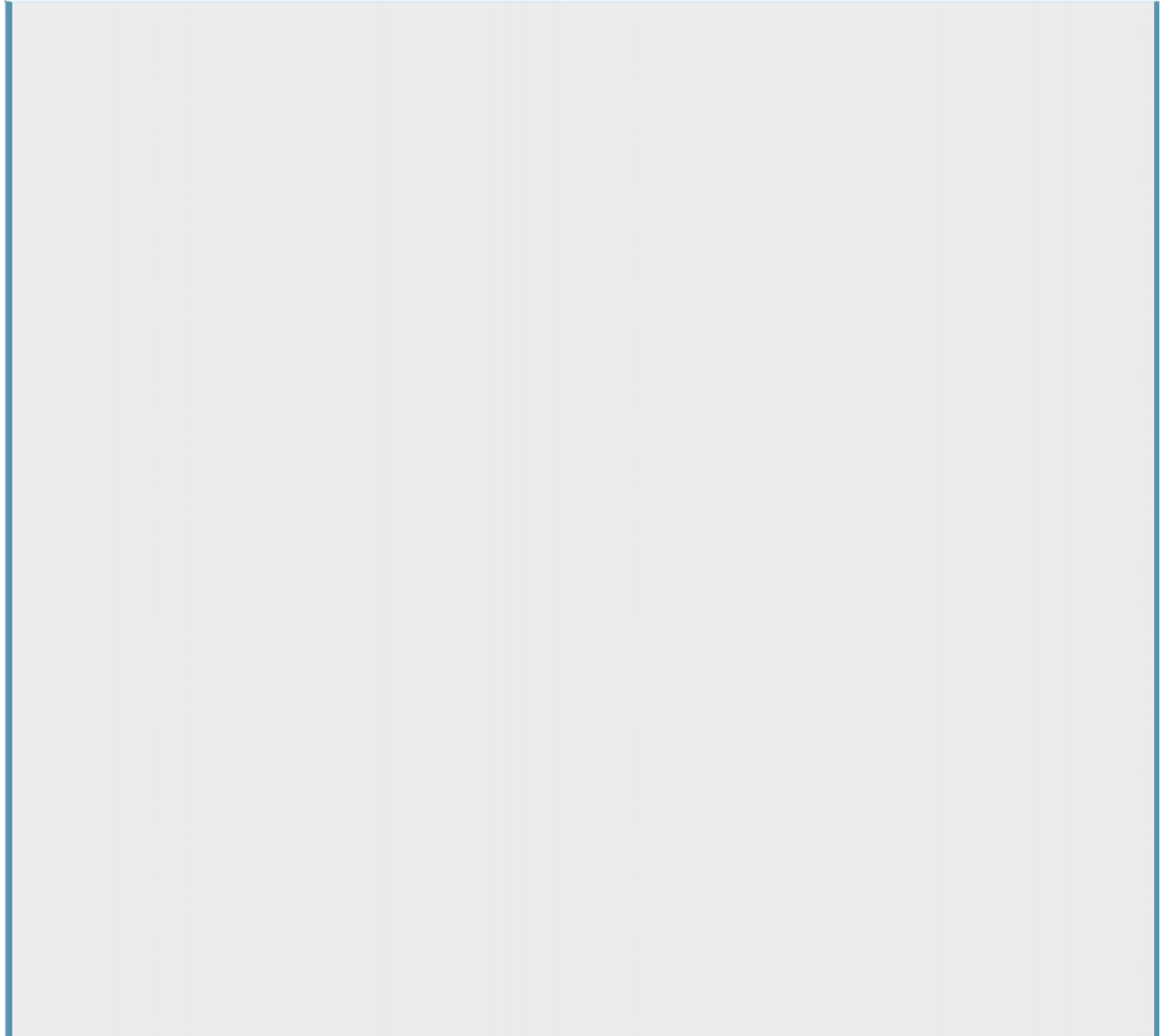



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Council to debate pesticide ban



FEBRUARY 12, 2012

BY JASON HEWLETT
DAILY NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Implementing its own pesticide ban while the province contemplates regulations of its own would be a premature move according to some on City council.

But the councillor proposing the ban believes if the City adopts a strict ban on pesticides then the province might be inspired to follow suit.

"If we, as a city, pass a really strong bylaw and they as a province end up with something that's really diluted, it won't look that good," Donovan Cavers said Sunday.

"I think that we as a council . . . have the ability to make sure that everyone across the province has a really good bylaw and, therefore, have their health protected."

Cavers proposed the outright ban as a notice of motion in council chambers last week. Councillors will discuss the issue on Tuesday.

The City revamped its pesticide bylaw a few years ago, so that only certified technicians can spray pesticides.

Coun. Ken Christian believes it would be best for council to leave the matter alone until the province makes its move.

"They are about to rule on the pesticide issue for the whole province. For us to go through all the trouble and torment of doing something in advance of that would be a little bit premature," he said.

Christian, who is also the director of health protection for the Interior Health Authority, said pesticides are an effective means of controlling weeds - with minimal health risk - if used in moderation.

Coun. Marg Spina said the City's current bylaw is more than adequate for pesticide control.

Fellow councillor Arjun Singh, who advocated for a full ban during a previous council term, believes it's important to consider what kind of an impact such a bylaw would have on agricultural businesses.

Colin Lyons, owner of Lyons Landscaping and Garden Centre, said a ban would hurt businesses that trade in cosmetic pesticides.

"I can see huge implications," said Lyons, adding he doesn't use chemical pesticides.

"You've got people who really want their yard manicured to look like a golf course. You've got golf courses. What are they going to do?"

He would like the City and province to offer people an alternative if a ban is adopted. For his part, Lyons said proper maintenance like aerating a lawn can go a long way to defeating invasive weeds and plants.

Environment Minister Terry Lake said public surveys suggest a ban on cosmetic pesticides in back yards, parks and public areas is in the cards, but people are content to allow them for industrial or agricultural use.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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EnviroEd

Cavers does not seem to understand the issue. The city can put a ban in place but with products still for sale what would be the point. The only thing he would succeed in doing would be to take the trained professionals out of the equation. Maybe that is his agenda? The province has a committee in place and they have been looking at this for several months. One can only hope that they use a science based approach and not a political one. Based on comments made by Terry Lake it looks like they may choose the later. Public policy should not be made based on public surveys, as the majority are not well versed on the subject and therefore cannot make an informed discussion. All they know is what is presented in the media and that has not been a balanced view, but rather a view from vocal groups like CCS and David Suzuki Foundation which have no expertise in pesticide toxicology and are using the issue as a cash cow. These products have a purpose they are not "cosmetic" they are used to keep our green spaces healthy. They are safe to use, Health Canada ensures that. We have wasted enough time and money on this issue, enough already!

10 hours ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



sdfsdg

I would support a ban in public parks/areas for health reasons for children. In terms of using it at your own house, I think everyone is entitled to do what they want in their own backyards, after all, it's their backyard. Golf courses could (possibly) look horrendous if they weren't properly manicured. If you really don't want to use pesticides then don't. Leave it as a choice. Plus, if you ban them in the city, people will just get them from stores on the reserve.

20 hours ago 8 Likes

Like Reply



EnviroEd

You don't have to go the the reserve, these products are for sale at any retail outlet in Kamloops like Canadian Tire and Walmart. The City cannot ban the sale only the use. That is why Cavers suggestion is so silly. If the province chooses to impose a ban, then the products with be removed from store shelves.

10 hours ago in reply to sdfsdg 4 Likes

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