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Home » Opinion » **Letters**

No surprise NDP were opposed to pesticides



JUNE 1, 2012

In response to Coun. Donovan Cavers, I am well aware the B.C. committee on cosmetic pesticides did not have a consensus but the majority of members agreed there was not sufficient scientific evidence to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides in B.C. That is how a democracy works, majority rules.

Am I surprised the NDP were opposed? Not in the least, as a provincewide pesticide ban is one of their election platforms. I was surprised, however, with one of the members' complete disregard for the process. A colleague and I made a presentation to the committee on behalf the IEMPA of Western Canada and its members of certified pesticide applicators.

As a presenter, I was fortunate to sit in on other presentations that day, one of which was by Dr. Keith Solomon, a world-renowned toxicologist and expert on pesticides and their effects on human health and the environment.

You can only imagine my surprise when NDP environment critic Rob Fleming got up a few short minutes into Dr. Solomon's presentation and left, only to return at the end of the presentation. So, am I surprised there was not a "consensus" or "unanimous" findings between committee members? Not in the least.

The NDP had a political agenda to ban cosmetic pesticides regardless of the facts presented at those hearings.

Yes, precautionary measures are taken as they are with many household products or everyday consumer goods that have labels advising proper use. Will you be calling for a ban on all these products as well? Sign posting is a City of Kamloops requirement. Fertilizer is applied to our clients' lawns, so yes, we do leave after care instructions for the homeowner.

The fact is, there is not a pesticide registered in Canada that causes cancer or has any links to cancer. It is the job of Health Canada's PMRA and its 350 qualified scientists to ensure their safety before they can be registered for use.

The PMRA looks at all the data, not only a few specifically selected epidemiological studies as the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment did. For an example, over 40,000 studies have been done on 2,4-D alone. I would welcome a list of the many, many effective, non-toxic alternatives Coun. Cavers refers to.

Keep in mind all pesticides sold in Canada must go through the same regulatory process. It is odd how Coun. Cavers trusts the PMRA on the safety of the alternative products but not on the conventional ones, as they all must go through the same scrutiny.

Unless, of course, he is referring to alternatives that do not have a PCP number but I'm sure with his expertise on the issue he is aware that would be illegal.

JACQUIE DOHERTY

Grassroots Choice Lawn Care Ltd.

Kamloops



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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you have a B.C Hydro smart meter installed at your home?

- Yes, I allowed it
- No, I refused it
- Installed without asking me
- Haven't got to me yet


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EnviroEd

The Canadian Medical Association doesn't recommend a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides, but it does call for more research on the health impact of chemical substances and recommends that pesticide use be minimized and managed wisely.

The Canadian Paediatric Society does not have a position on the health risk of pesticides. The organization doesn't have a position because volunteer committees, which raise policy issues, have not brought concerns about pesticides to the CPS board. The CPS does have policies on banning children from tanning salons and preventing snowboarding injuries.

So what does the Canadian Cancer Society, an advocacy and fund raising group which has no experts in the field of pesticides on staff know that the Canadian Medical Association or the Canadian Paediatric Society does not? I agree pesticides should be used wisely but a ban is unfounded.

2 hours ago

Like Reply



KamCmnSense

I should have also mentioned earlier that many preparations of 2,4-D contain dioxin impurities which are a KNOWN human carcinogen. One such impurity is not regulated or monitored.

8 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE & NORAH G, WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE A...

The dioxin issue was fully resolved in the 1980s.

Moreover, the toxicity of 2,4-D is not very high when compared to table salt.

Pest control products like 2,4-D are LESS TOXIC than table salt.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-1J8>

0 minutes ago in reply to KamCmnSense

Edit Reply

EnviroEd

The PMRA sets the record straight on the dioxins in 2,4-D. "There are many reports with inconsistent messages.

In the early 1980s, the manufacturing process for 2,4-D was carefully examined in light of the emerging knowledge and concerns regarding 2,3,7,8-TCDD. Modifications were made to reduce the levels of contamination for all dioxins, including 2,3,7,8-TCDD. In 1983, Agriculture Canada's Pesticides Division Memorandum to Registrants R-1-216 established a production limit of "not detectable at 1 ppb" for 2,3,7,8-TCDD in 2,4-D.

Since the 1980s, more sensitive analytical methodologies have been developed and dioxins in 2,4-D can be detected at levels much lower than before. Although 2,3,7,8-TCDD or other dioxins of concern may be

present at levels below the production limit, this level is so low that they would not be detected above background levels following use of 2,4-D products. As noted in Health Canada's It's Your Health publication on dioxins and furans (2004), the greatest sources of dioxins in the environment include the incineration of medical and municipal waste, the burning of fuel and wood, electrical power generation and tobacco smoke."

1 hour ago in reply to KamCmnSense

Like Reply



EnviroEd

Experts are whom we should be relying on not the general public who have no expertise. Below a quote regarding Roundup. By reading the posts I'm sure most on this site would be opposed to its use but that is because they don't understand the science. It's a pesticide so it's bad!

"With regard to Roundup, this compound is a very specific inhibitor of an enzyme unique to photosynthesis. Therefore it affects only photosynthesizing organisms, typically green plants. It has even gone through phase one clinical trials (which test safety for humans) because there was some idea that it might help with arthritis. No such luck. In other words, you could drink the stuff with no ill effect."

Neil Madsen
Emeritus Professor
of biochemistry
University of Alberta

13 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Econ

Ed, thank you for your posts on this topic. However, I will continue to put faith in the Oncologists I have spoken to about this subject (and there are several) who all believe that pesticides for cosmetic purposes especially - have no place in a healthy society.

I know this may sound disrespectful but have no other way to say it: Spraying or applying poisonous substances to part of the environment to kill or eliminate some of the biodiversity of said environment - primarily because we have been corporately brainwashed to believe we need to for esthetic reasons - is lunacy and retarded, shortsighted behaviour - IMHO.

I do not mean this as a personal affront to you....our society has been very well groomed over the years in more ways than one.

11 hours ago in reply to EnviroEd 3 Likes

Like Reply



Livin in the Loops

You won't mind then if I prefer to go with the published opinion of an Emeritus Professor of biochemistry from the University of Alberta.

5 hours ago in reply to Econ 1 Like

Like Reply

Econ

Of course not Livin. As long as you don't mind being in harmony with WH Gathercole....please check out his posts:

<http://www.kamloopsnews.ca/art...>

if you haven't already and his blog:

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc...>

Now - I know some people think David Suzuki is a nut - but for sure I would take him on my team before Gathercole any day! :)

Have a great weekend...stay healthy.

Cheers!

3 hours ago in reply to LivintheLoops

Like Reply



Petosa

Well said

8 hours ago in reply to Econ 2 Likes

Like Reply



Carr Nyuli

"The NDP had a political agenda to ban cosmetic pesticides regardless of the facts presented at those hearings." Is it hypocritical in here or is it just you? You have a lawn care company, so you'll be doing the exact same thing, looking only at the facts that support your position.

14 hours ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



Sunflower02

Why zero in on the NDP? Not a word about the fact that its in Christie's reelection platform to ban cosmetic pesticides.

14 hours ago 4 Likes

Like Reply

KamCmnSense

Are we to believe the "facts" from someone with an obvious bias (in the business of applying pesticides)? There are many independent agencies that disagree with your assessment regarding the cancer risk of pesticides. For instance, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that phenoxy acid based herbicides (including 2,4-D), were classified as a class 2B carcinogen - possibly carcinogenic to humans. A 1990 study* or farmers in Nebraska even when adjusting for exposure to other chemicals, found that 2,4-D exposure substantially increased the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. While I agree that many studies have also been done that suggest no correlation between 2,4-D and cancer risk, we can therefore only conclude that we don't really know if 2,4-D causes cancer. Accordingly, it is FAR from FACT that it does not cause cancer as you suggest. If the scientific community does know this answer, you certainly don't (with all due respect).

*"A Case-Control Study of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and the Herbicide 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2, 4-D) in Eastern Nebraska"

Furthermore, cancer is not the only health effect that people are concerned about. 2,4-D, for instance, has been associated with ALS, eye damage, chemical sensitivities/allergies, and reproductive problems.

Until we know the truth, in my opinion, we are playing Russian roulette with our health, with little real benefit to society, by using pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Several countries and provinces, presumably who have evaluated the available scientific data, have found enough alarm to have banned 2,4-D.

As for alternatives, well, here's 2 non-toxic alternatives: doing nothing (accept a few dandelions etc. on our lawns), or pull weeds by hand.

15 hours ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



Pierre Filisetti

Dear JACQUIE DOHERTY;
You know who I am. I do respect you. You are self-employed, hard-working and always been good to deal with. Can you please consider making some changes to the products and services you sell? There are alternatives to both and you can do it. A perfect lawn is in the past. From a horticultural perspective is as natural as AstroTurf. Change is coming, and in this case, much overdue and please do not blame the NDP.

15 hours ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE & NORAH G, WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE A...

Change is surely coming for Anti-Pesticide Activists.

There is NO RECOURSE but OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS AND LITIGATION against these Anti-Pesticide Basterds.

NORAHG manages a VAST ARCHIVE of REPORTS, MEDIA REFERENCES, AUDIO CLIPS, and VIDEOS on ALL Anti-Pesticide Terrorist Acts of Subversion.

We know who they are, and where they are hiding, and what they have said and done.

We will HOUND THESE VERMIN FOREVER, no matter where they slither off to.



LET THESE PEOPLE FEEL THE SPOTLIGHT OF THE MEDIA AND THE TERROR OF THE COURTS !

<http://wp.me/p1jq40-33F>

0 minutes ago in reply to Pierre Filisetti

Edit Reply



Econ

Great post Pierre ..we need to be thinking ahead...I'm sure Ms. Doherty does not want to be the IBM , Olivetti or Kodak of the lawn care business

11 hours ago in reply to Pierre Filisetti 2 Likes

Like Reply



Econ

He probably realized how much utter contempt and disrespect Bennett and the pesticide panderers have for any opposition and chose to take a breath of fresh air.....

<http://theyee.ca/Blogs/TheHoo...>

and

<http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2012...>

16 hours ago 5 Likes

Like Reply

ofoab

Ah , yes the same regulatory process that Harper has further reduced in the omnibus bill. The same regulatory process that muzzles scientists and has Pter Kent as its spokesman."No due diligence "is the slogan of the day for this government!

17 hours ago 4 Likes

Like Reply

**Petosa**

Whistle blowers face fines if they expose food contamination. I understand fiduciary responsibility and process but what can a scientist do other than quit his job or go to jail. Throughout history we have had such heroes. We use the word hero frequently to describe some members of our population. Most often, rightly or wrongly, it's members of the military, or sports people who receive this acknowledgement.

But, it seems to me that after their military actions are complete, the public does not agitate to improve their benefits and conditions; essentially, they are forgotten and ignored, except on patriotic occasions such as Remembrance Day when it's every one's duty to "look" patriotic. So, they get a thanks or a handshake, but often no tangible substantive reward or acknowledgement. I think our governments actually cut their benefits, although they sent many to illegal wars in the Middle East and elsewhere. It seems the whole action is really to glorify the country...the individuals are just small pawns...inter-changeable parts until the next war. So, the purpose is to glorify the country, rather than elevate the people who created the success...I mean soldiers have very little real social status in Canada or America. And, all of the participants in war are inter-changeable parts...they now employ many mercenary soldiers...and, the results created since WWII have been sketchy, at best. So, there's been little heroic outcome.

But, their "lot" is better than what was accorded the person shown below in the web site. She was called a number of rude names by conservative lawmakers, banished by society, and imprisoned regularly for fighting for rights that 50% of the population currently take for granted. Thus, she is a hero who suffered immeasurably, often ridiculed and shunned without any support, who made changes that have endured.

Today, she is virtually ignored by a society and political leadership that sees very little way to benefit from her actions. Hence, her value and role has been depreciated, ignored and/or forgotten. That shouldn't be.

This is a hero... like modern whistle blowers that most of us can't see beyond the hockey player or someone who joins the military in order to get a job.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/co...>

16 hours ago in reply to ofoab 3 Likes

Like Reply

**Petosa**

Maybe he (Rob) had to go to the bathroom?

17 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply

WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE & NORAH G, WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NOR...



PESTICIDE BANS result in CATASTROPHIC CARNAGE caused by BAN FAILURES, BUSINESS FAILURES, GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES, STUNNINGLY EXORBITANT COSTS, HORRIFIC FINES, and even ILLNESS and DEATH.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-26P>

Because of the New Democrat proposal for an ARBITRARY PESTICIDE BAN, the owners, employees, and families dependent on Professional Lawn Care businesses will face TERROR, DESPAIR, and DESTITUTION.

New Democrats want to destroy businesses, assets, customers, homes, lifestyles, job security, families, children, loved-ones, and futures.

In jurisdictions outside of British Columbia, PROHIBITION led to HARDSHIP AND LOSSES for the Professional Lawn Care businesses because there were NO valid economical alternatives to replace the prohibited products.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g>

New Democrats want to HURL THOUSANDS OF PROFESSIONALS into SQUALOR and DESPAIR, forcing them to BURN-IN-HELL in places like Vancouver's East-End.

0 minutes ago

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