

# Golf course super wants support for continued pesticide use

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By [Kevin Parnell - Kelowna Capital News](#)

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The superintendent of the Okanagan Golf Club is calling on all golfers to give public input on a proposed bill that could harm the golf industry.

Jeff Bennett says golf courses should be given some exemptions from a potential ban on the use and sale of pesticides, saying that the industry could stand to lose money as well as entire courses if they weren't able to use pesticides.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment is asking for public input into the legislation which would make it illegal to use pesticides for cosmetic use.

But Bennett says golf courses should be exempt because their use of pesticides is not for cosmetic purposes but is essential.

"If we don't have these products golfers are going to be playing less than desirable conditions," he said.

"We have already limited the use of pesticides and we only use fungicides as a last resort. Some pests can destroy a green in one day, and we need to be able to prevent this if it occurs."

Bennett, who works with over 170 team members at the Okanagan Golf Club's Bear and Quail courses, says if golf courses can't control fungal outbreaks there could be a huge impact on the golf industry, which is a big driver of the tourism industry, especially in the Okanagan.

"Golf is such big business in B.C. that if we have to eliminate pesticides that would have a dramatic effect," he said.

He says the use of pesticides and fungicides is only a part of an Integrated Pest Management cultural practices plan for managing the 330 acre site at the Okanagan Golf Club.

"We manage our plants to be healthy and to naturally fend off disease," he said. "But even then if it rains for weeks on end, then we have to be able to have these products to save our greens."

Bennett says golf courses are already regulated under the B.C. Integrated Pest Management Act.

The cutoff date for public input is Feb. 15. You can e-mail comments to [cindybertram@shaw.ca](mailto:cindybertram@shaw.ca) or visit [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca) for more information.

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