



Audit - City's pesticide policy out of date, not clearly communicated

An audit coming before city councillors Monday found deficiencies in the city's pesticide policy.

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An audit coming before Edmonton's audit committee on Monday found deficiencies in the city's pesticide policy and its communication.

The audit was done to check the city's Integrated Pest Management Policy for clarity, determine if local procedures adhered to provincial and federal standards and assess whether the city is disclosing their practices to the public effectively.

City Auditor David Wiun said pesticides are federally regulated for health, and provincially regulated for other considerations.

“The vast majority of complaints are people complaining about too many mosquitos or too many dandelions,” Wiun said, but his audit found the city’s pest control measures are effective.

Wiun said there needs to better transparency and clarity in what’s reported to the public.

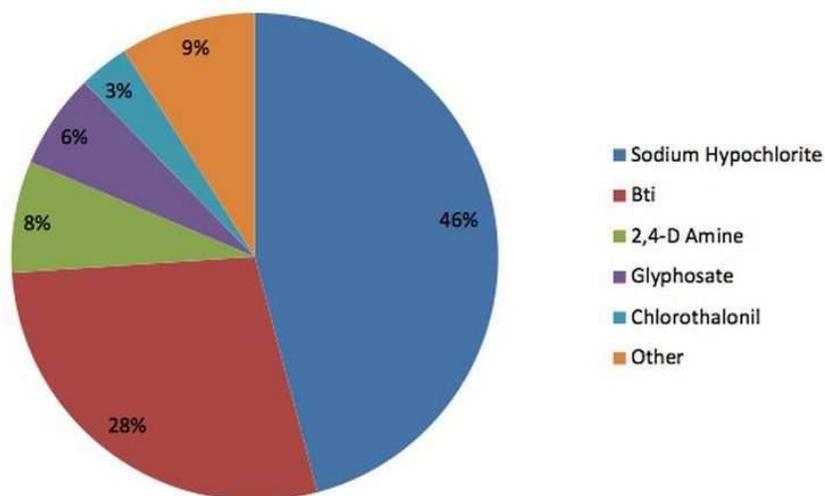
“Citizens would have concerns both around their health and their family’s health and the environment,” Wiun said.

While the audit found that City of Edmonton is “substantially” following the principles of the Integrated Pest Management Policy and regulations for the application of pesticides, it did uncover a few examples of weakness in documentation, deficiencies in public reporting and one example of the city spraying a pesticide past its registration expiry date.

In 2016, city officials used 4,000 kilograms of 48 active pesticide ingredients to control unwelcome insects, weeds, rodents and fungi.

The top five active ingredients — sodium hypochlorite, Bti, 2 4-D amine, glyphosate and chlorothalonil — accounted for 91 per cent of the pesticides used by the city, while 43 other ingredients made up nine per cent.

Figure 1 – 2016 Total Active Ingredients Used (4,000 kilograms)



This chart, from the Office of the City Auditor's City Pesticide Use Audit, to be presented to city councillors on Monday, Nov. 20, 2017, shows a breakdown of the 4,000 kilograms of total active pesticide ingredients used by the City of Edmonton in 2016.

Edmonton's pesticide policy calls for preventative and non-chemical pest management strategies to be considered first before applying the least toxic approved pesticide.

However, the audit found the city policy doesn't define what the least toxic approved pesticide means or how it is chosen.

Ryan Pleckaitis, Acting Manager with Community Standards, said the department supports the auditor's recommendations has set a timeline for the second quarter of 2019 to enact the auditor's recommendations.

"It really doesn't provide much of a destination on what exactly that means," Pleckaitis said. "Least toxic to what? To animals? To humans? To the environment?"

Correcting deficiencies in documentation is "an easy fix," Pleckaitis said.

As for communication with the public, the city will look at using GPS to be more accurate with where spraying occurs and to have that data available.

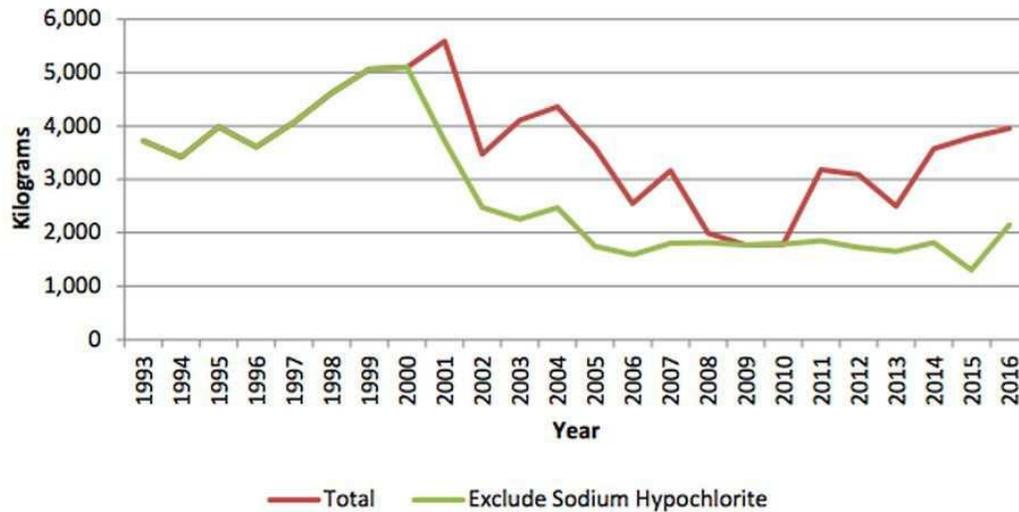
The city still has Dursban— an insecticide used on larval and adult mosquitoes —within its warehouse, but has switched primarily to Bti. Pleckaitis said they keep the pesticide around in case of an emergency such as in the case of West Nile or Zika virus.

He said in the last two seasons, the city has not used Dursban. Ten years ago, the city used about 1,000 kilograms of Dursban, with the active ingredient of chlorpyrifos. In 2017, the city used 3.5 kilograms of Pyrate (another insecticide that uses chlorpyrifos as its active ingredient).

Pyrate is a spray and Bti is in a pellet form.

Pleckaitis said the city limits the use of chlorpyrifos to areas of heavy vegetation and remote areas.

Figure 3 – Total Active Ingredients Used (1993-2016)



This chart, from the Office of the City Auditor’s City Pesticide Use Audit, to be presented to city councillors on Monday, November 20, 2017, shows a decrease in the amount of pesticides used by the City of Edmonton between 1993 and 2016.



EDMONTON, ALBERTA ; MARCH 31, 2015–Sheryl McCumsey, Pesticide Free Alberta at an open area near the corner of 77 Street and 84 Avenue on March 31, 2015 in Edmonton. Pesticide Free Alberta FOIP’d all of the application data for the pesticide Edmonton uses to fight mosquitoes, a pesticide that is only meant to be used in outlying areas, and was surprised to find records for residential areas of the city. (Greg Southam/Edmonton Journal)

Sheryl McCumsey of Pesticide Free Alberta [a notorious anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organization] agreed the city's policy needs reviewing, but it missed that Dursban has been replaced with another insecticide, Pyrate, that also uses chlorpyrifos, despite only one known case of West Nile Virus in Edmonton that was reported in 2013.

"Why have they deliberately said they're not spraying Dursban, but they're spraying Pyrate?" she asked. "That's like saying, I'm not taking Tylenol, I'm going to take Excedrin, which is the same thing. People have been misinformed by this department repeatedly in so many ways."

She said chlorpyrifos shouldn't be sprayed at all, citing a letter from Dr Meriel Watts, whose PhD is in pesticide risk assessment and policy.

[A fanatical-activist, Meriel Watts operates in New Zealand as some kind of lunatic science advisor for Pesticide Action Network (PAN), a notorious anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organization.]

McCumsey said the city continues to use pesticides that have not been properly evaluated, as well improperly using chemicals that are known neurotoxins.

"Industry provides the science used to register products and there are several other serious holes in how this is not a reliable way to determine acceptable risk to the public," she said.

Every other city in Canada uses biological controls, McCumsey said.

She said if the city continues to use chlorpyrifos, the group plans to fundraise for a lawyer to sue the city.

The danger to the public is not in acute exposure, but from long-term exposure in small amounts, McCumsey said.

The auditor's report will be presented to the audit committee in the River Valley Room of City Hall at a meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m.

—With files from Elise Stolte

<http://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/audit-citys-pesticide-policy-out-of-date-not-clearly-communicated>

NORAHG Response

McCUMSEY IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED !

McCumsey is now associating with fanatical-activist, Meriel Watts, who operates in New Zealand, and NOT Edmonton, as some kind of lunatic science advisor for Pesticide Action Network (PAN), a notorious anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organization. Neither McCumsey nor Watts are to be trusted !

In Edmonton, because of McCumsey's acts of subversion, Edmonton neighborhoods are being jeopardized with ecological disasters by dangerous insects like mosquitoes, and invasive weeds like dandelions. Thanks to McCumsey, Edmonton's green spaces have become dangerous and pest-infested garbage dumps. McCumsey is not to be trusted !

McCumsey is a mere paranoid conspiracy theory fanatic who has NO faith in any REAL scientific expertise, other than her own less-than-mediocre understanding of the issues as an uneducated masseuse. She believes that posting a YouTube video somehow provides her with some kind of credibility — posting a video can be done by any 10-year-old with a school science project. McCumsey is not to be trusted !

It is a fact that McCumsey has NO recognized expertise, NO training, and NO background in matters concerning pest control products. Her opinions carry NO credibility and are worthless. McCumsey is a MERE student in massage therapy and footwear. McCumsey is not to be trusted !

While observers have NO objection to McCumsey's choice of life-style, which, in this case, is a clear preference to live in an environment that looks like a pest-infested garbage dump. However, observers DO object to the imposition of McCumsey's life-style choice on the majority of the community that DOES NOT want to live in this manner. It is known that McCumsey has even been terrorizing her neighbours for over a decade because of her mock-fear against pest control products applied to their properties. McCumsey is not to be trusted !

Thanks to McCumsey and her fanatical co-conspirators at Pesticide Free Alberta and Occupy Edmonton, Edmontonians had better get used to swatting mosquitoes, forever ! They had also get used to their children playing on dangerous pest-infested green spaces. McCumsey is not to be trusted !

McCumsey should leave science to REAL experts. There is NOT ONE known illness or death from the proper use of pest control products used in the urban landscape. Perhaps if McCumsey were to prioritize her energy to the

primary causes of health issues, such as life-style choices, she would actually save lives. Otherwise, McCumsey is not to be trusted ! McCumsey conveniently forgets that the risk assessment of conventional pest control products overwhelmingly proves that they are scientifically-safe, and, when used properly, will NOT cause harm to children, people, animals, or the environment.

We dare to defy the pesticide-hating fanatics, like McCumsey, by exploring the whole truth from an independent perspective on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

✓ **FACTS Demonstrating That McCumsey Terrifies Her Neighbours** -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/05/audio-sheryl-mccumsey-extreme-activist-neighbor-making-us-sick-with-round-up-university-of-queph-industry-shills/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/06/19/norahg-responds-to-sheryl-mccumsey-deception-with-false-allegations-2014-06-18/>

✓ **FACTS Proving That Pest Control Products Are Scientifically-Safe** -- **LINKS**

✓ **FACT** -- Overwhelming Scientific Evidence Clearly Demonstrates That Pest Control Products Are Scientifically-Safe, & Will Not Cause Harm To Children, Adults, Animals, Or The Environment

✓ **FACT** -- Pesticides Are Less Lethal To Humans Than Caffeine -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/01/pesticides-are-scientifically-safe-safe-to-use-less-lethal-to-humans-than-caffeine-2014-02-27/>

✓ **FACT** -- Yes, You Are Definitely Ingesting Pesticides, But Here's Why It's Not A Problem -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2017/08/18/pesticides-are-scientifically-safe-if-food-is-sprayed-a-lot-is-that-bad-for-your-digestive-health-2017-08-18/>

✓ **FACT** -- Children Are Not At Risk From Pesticides -- Dangerous Playing Surfaces Are Created By #@!% Pesticide Bans -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/children-are-not-at-risk/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pest Control Products Are Safe For Kids -- Slide Show -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2016/08/30/a-look-at-safety-environment-facts-pest-control-products-are-safe-for-kids-slide-show-2016-08-31/>

✓ **FACT** -- Chemicals Are Evaluated For Carcinogenic Potential By Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Force-Of-Nature-Myth-BUSTING-Cancer-2012-11-00-Chemicals-Evaluated-for-Carcinogenic-Potential-EPA-pdf-300-dpi.pdf>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/04/17/chemicals-evaluated-for-carcinogenic-potential-environmental-protection-agency-epa-2012-11-00/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pesticides Are Evaluated As Acceptable For Continued Registration By Health Canada -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/06/25/pesticides-evaluated-as-acceptable-for-continued-registration-by-health-canada-2013-03-31/>

✓ **FACT** -- Our Children Are Safe When Pesticide Bans Are Stopped -- There Are Real Trends AGAINST Pesticide Bans -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2012/10/11/posters-there-is-a-real-trend-against-pesticide-bans-victories-against-terrorists-our-children-are-safe-when-pesticide-bans-are-stopped-2012-10-11/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pest Control Products Have Been Tested In More Ways Than Virtually Any Other Set Of Substances -- The Industry Task Force II On 2,4-D Research Data -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Force-Of-Nature-UPDATE-24-D-2013-05-30-The-Industry-Task-Force-II-On-24-D-Research-Data-Gray-Burns-Mahlburg-pdf.pdf>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/06/06/the-industry-task-force-ii-on-24-d-research-data-update-on-24-d-herbicide-gray-burns-mahlburg-2013-05-30/>

✓ **FACT** -- Pesticides Are Safe -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/01/pesticides-are-scientifically-safe-safe-to-use-less-lethal-to-humans-than-caffeine-2014-02-27/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/children-are-not-at-risk/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/06/25/pesticides-evaluated-as-acceptable-for-continued-registration-by-health-canada-2013-03-31/>

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✓ **FACT** -- Pesticides Are Health Canada Approved -- Listen To Mr Lindsay Hanson From The Pest Management Regulatory Agency -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/dirtybit/LHansonPMRAottawaPesticideSafety.mp3>

✓ **FACT** -- There Is No Direct Proof Pesticides Cause Cancer -- Canadian Cancer Society -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/canadian-cancer-society-no-conclusive-link-between-pesticides-and-cancer/>

✓ **FACT** -- REAL Experts Speak Out Against The Conspiracy To Impose Reckless & Arbitrary Prohibition Against Conventional Pest Control Products -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/11/14/the-wisdom-of-real-experts-who-speak-out-against-the-conspiracy-to-impose-reckless-and-arbitrary-prohibition-against-conventional-pest-control-products-2014-11-14/>

WE SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT McCUMSEY FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !

We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAHG). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about truth-challenged pesticide-hating fanatics (HUJE), like McCumsey, who conspire to destroy businesses that are dependent on the use of safe and effective conventional pest control products. We also report on the work of several highly-rated leading experts who have recognized expertise, training, and background in matters concerning pest control products, and who promote environmental realism and pesticide truths.

We dare to defy the pesticide-hating fanatics, like McCumsey, by exploring the whole truth from an independent perspective on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://pesticidetruths.com/> If you wish to receive free reports on issues that concern you, please contact us at ... force.of.de.nature@gmail.com
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