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The Wisdom of Lorne Hepworth



Pest control products that are used on school grounds
are specifically evaluated for use in environments
where children may play

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Lorne Hepworth

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Letter to the Editor

As School District 5 (in Cranbrook, British Columbia) debates its policy on the use of pest control products to control unwanted and potentially harmful weeds in school yards, I hope they will also consider the reason these tools exist and the thorough assessment they undergo before being made available for use.

If left unchecked, weeds can DESTROY IMPORTANT GREEN SPACES and other costly infra-structure, and ROB CHILDREN of the opportunity to enjoy ever-so-important outdoor activities.

For example, pest control products help ensure students have access to SAFE RECREATIONAL SPACES where they can play without the THREAT OF TRIPPING AND INJURING themselves.

Schoolyards and playing fields can be overtaken by weeds or severely damaged by insects, seriously impacting a school's ability to provide these important playing areas to children.

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Weeds can destroy important green spaces. and rob children of outdoor activities

Schools must have safe and cost-effective solutions available to them when faced with ALLERGENIC WEEDS such as ragweed or poison ivy, DAMAGING INSECTS such as ants and grubs, or other weeds and insects or diseases that negatively impact their properties.

Pest control products that are used on school grounds are SPECIFICALLY EVALUATED for use in environments where CHILDREN may play.

Every product that's sold in Canada undergoes a COMPREHENSIVE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW AND RISK ASSESSMENT by Health Canada that includes a review of all SCIENTIFICALLY CREDIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE.

Given the school board's commitment to thoroughly examine this issue, I'd like to suggest they take the listen to scientific experts from Health Canada, or other unbiased sources like university researchers, who can provide IMPARTIAL, SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN INFORMATION.

Canada's plant science industry welcomes questions about our products and looks forward to future opportunities to set the record straight about the safety of our products and our industry's commitment to people, public health and the environment.

Lorne Hepworth

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Dr. Lorne Hepworth is President of CropLife Canada (formerly Crop Protection Institute of Canada) since 1997, as well as its past Vice-President.

CropLife Canada is the trade association representing the manufacturers, developers, and distributors of plant science innovations — pest control products and plant biotechnology — for use in agriculture, urban and public health settings.

Hepworth is chief spokesperson, responsible for overall strategic direction and management.

Hepworth is a member of the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council.

He has served on the federal government's Pest Management Advisory Committee and National Biotechnology Advisory Committee; and chaired CropLife International's Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture Committee.

Hepworth is a graduate of Western College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Saskatchewan.

He was a veterinarian in Alberta and Saskatchewan until 1982, when he was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Constituency of Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

Hepworth served nine years in the Saskatchewan Cabinet, holding portfolios for Agriculture, Education, Finance, and Energy and Mines.

Hepworth maintains a grain farm near Assiniboia, Saskatchewan.

In Letters to the Editor across Canada, Hepworth has personally spoken out against activists and prohibitions on a very frequent basis.

Here are examples of some of Hepworth's media comments —

« It's a shame that the Ontario government is unwilling to do the hard work of giving due consideration to the many sides of a thorny issue when there is a vocal minority to appease. Such is the case with Ontario's decision to ban pesticide use on lawns and gardens — a decision that is both short-sighted and misguided. »

« [The ...] misleading characterization of the Ontario College of Family Physicians' review of pesticide literature is a disgrace, although it is typical of activist groups, such as the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, which search far and wide for support of the extreme anti-pesticide position, and yet continue to find themselves unable to point to anything better than the 2004 family physicians' report which is a literature review, not an actual scientific study. »



*Knowledge is
of no value
unless you put it
into practice*