

B.C. legislative committee rejects outright cosmetic pesticide ban

BY JONATHAN FOWLIE, VANCOUVER SUN MAY 17, 2012 11:02 AM



A legislative committee has rejected an outright ban on cosmetic pesticides in B.C., saying the scientific evidence does not sufficiently support such a move. Four municipalities in Greater Victoria have adopted bans on pesticides and set penalties for their use.

Photograph by: Darren Stone, timescolonist.com

VICTORIA - A legislative committee has rejected an outright ban on cosmetic pesticides in B.C., saying the scientific evidence does not sufficiently support such a move.

In a report released Thursday morning, the committee made 17 recommendations, including restricting the sale and use of commercial pesticides and enhancing enforcement of existing regulations.

But it stopped short of an outright ban.

"We made our decision based on our understanding of the science," Kootenay East Liberal MLA, and chair of the committee, Bill Bennett said explaining the reason for not recommending a ban.

"We are not prepared to tell homeowners that they cannot purchase federally-approved Domestic-class pesticides or hire a qualified contractor to apply these federally-approved weed and bug control products on their lawn," he added in a news release.

New Democrat environment critic Rob Fleming criticized the decision.

"New Democrats are profoundly disappointed in the outcome of this process," Fleming, who was also deputy chair of the Liberal dominated all-party committee, said in a news release.

"Instead of making good on the premier's repeated promise to ban cosmetic pesticides, the Liberals have brought in minimal regulatory changes."

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