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Richmond Review

# Cosmetic pesticide bylaw to be enforced with fines

By [Martin van den Hemel - Richmond Review](#)

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Locals could be looking at fines starting at \$100 and up to \$1,000 if they continue to use weed killers to maintain their lawns should a proposed cosmetic pesticide bylaw come into effect.

The bylaw came one step closer to reality Wednesday, and if enacted, would apply not just to local residents and business owners, but the city as well.

Staff recommended that council give first, second and third reading to the long-awaited bylaw, which has been in discussion for many months.

The city is also being urged to write to the provincial government, strongly supporting the introduction of a province-wide ban, like that introduced in Prince Edward Island.

Michelle Li, of the Richmond Pesticide Awareness Coalition, has long lobbied councillors to follow in the footsteps of other Metro Vancouver cities, such as Vancouver and the North Shore, where these cosmetic pesticides have been banned.

The proposed bylaw prohibits the use of pesticides to maintain outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers and other ornamental plants and turf on private residential land and land owned by the city.

There will be exemptions, however, as underlined by the community charter, which

would allow the continued use of biological controls to destroy a pest. Accredited organizations would continue to be allowed to control or eradicate an infestation, a pest that threatens a sensitive ecosystem and/or an alien invasive species.

Pesticides will also be allowed to be used at the city's pitch and putt golf green at Hugh Boyd Park, and at Minoru Lawn Bowling Greens, which parks staff say couldn't operate if they were included in the bylaw.

The cost of implementing and enforcing the proposed bylaw will run in the neighbourhood of \$210,000 per year.

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