

them can improve residents' health. On the other hand, as I previously noted, neighbourhoods might actually be weakened, because --insofar as a ban would lead to more weeds growing in the city, adverse health risks associated with respiratory afflictions will increase, as per evidence I provided previously, associated with the City of Toronto. Moreover, as I also noted previously, feelings of general wellbeing may decrease, as per Dr. James Lu, medical health officer for Vancouver Coastal Health Unit, who wrote in a Feb. 19 2009 letter to Richmond council. "The aesthetics of urban landscapes has public health value." Flowers, not weeds, make people happy, and this has a beneficial health effect. Because of this, he said, "a comprehensive integrated pest management approach offers a better alternative to cosmetic pesticide ban bylaws. An I.P.M. strikes a balance between prudence, public policy and private choice." And, then, there's the POSSIBLE \$1 million price tag. What services will be lost/ or how much will taxes be raised to pay for this? Either way, it's hard to see how neighbourhoods will be strengthened by overtaxing property owners or slashing services to cover the costs.

Enhancing sustainability of city services and infrastructure. Well, insofar as the bylaw essentially exempts the city from having to stop using weed killers on the city's playing fields and medians – and now includes an exemption on the Pacific Rose Garden, too-one wonders how this is to be interpreted.

Let's take a closer look. Taken at face value, we are led to believe that a bylaw that allows the use of cosmetic pesticides on city property somehow enhances the sustainability of city services and infrastructure. Logically, though, if this is so, it must also be true that the bylaw (which has an opposite effect on private property), must also have an opposite outcome on private property when measuring sustainability. Bizarrely, this would lead us to conclude that the ban would have an UNSUSTAINABLE impact on that private property.

You can't have it both ways! Allowing usage on city property and disallowing use on private property can't both be sustainable at the same time. Oh the irony!

Reviewing the impact of the bylaw on the corporate strategic goals, then, it's highly questionable whether "excellence in city governance" has been achieved, it's doubtful that "neighbourhoods have been strengthened," and it's impossible to determine whether city services and infrastructure will enjoy "enhanced sustainability".

In conclusion and sticking with the subject of irony I mentioned a moment ago, I must also draw attention to a letter dated Feb. 24, 2012 and signed by Verne Kucy, acting manager of environmental services, in which he responds to questions from the BC Cancer Society about the aforementioned city-fields exemption.

In defense of the exemption, Mr. Kucy declared, and I quote, "You should be aware that our Parks Department only uses products [that] have been authorized by the relevant Federal health agencies responsible for researching and approving their use and only as permitted under Provincial regulations."

pesticides on private lawns, every citizen of Coquitlam could make exactly the same statement – that they use only "products [that] have been authorized by the relevant Federal health agencies responsible for researching and approving their use and only as permitted under Provincial regulations." So it seems that the city deems itself responsible enough to make this argument, but has concluded that average citizens and property owners are, as a whole, completely IR-responsible.

Actually, this is beyond ironic. It's insulting. And it's discriminatory too, because it prejudges citizens, and finds them all guilty of reckless and unhealthy pesticide use.

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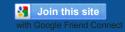
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