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Pesticide advocate takes story to task

Published: December 21, 2011 8:00 AM

To the editor:

I am responding to your page A16, headlined Province polls public on pesticide use, in the Nov. 30 edition of the Free Press.

We agree people should provide their input on the consultations taking place in British Columbia, but it's important readers have all the facts, so they can make up their own mind on the issue, especially since a recent article in the Free Press contained a significant amount of misinformation about the safety of pesticides that must be corrected.

Pesticides help protect valuable green spaces from insect, weed and disease infestations.

What readers should know is that before any pesticide can be sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific review and risk assessment by Health Canada.

In addition to a comprehensive set of over 200 tests, Health Canada also reviews all additional scientifically credible studies that exist. As part of its safety assessment, Health Canada specifically takes into consideration all demographics of the population before approving a product for use.

Through this process, pesticides receive a greater breadth of scrutiny than any other regulated product and only those products that meet Health Canada's strict health and safety standards are registered for sale and use.

B.C. may want to seriously look at the consequences the Ontario pesticide ban has started to take, including illegal pesticide use, loss of green space and increased municipal maintenance costs as part of their consultation process.

The fact of the matter is a provincial ban of pesticide use in B.C. would prevent residents from using safe and effective tools, approved by Health Canada, to protect their personal property from insect, weed and disease infestations.

Pesticides can be safely used and Canadians should feel comfortable if they choose to use them.

Lorne Hepworth, president
CropLife Canada

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**Norah G Fon** · 16 years old

NORAHG Responds to Dr. Lorne Hepworth.

Dr. Hepworth proves that he is the nation's MOST EFFECTIVE and CONSISTENT SPOKESMAN on the subject of public policy and pest control products.

In Letters To The Editor across Canada, Dr. Hepworth has effectively and consistently spoken out against activists and anti-pesticide prohibitions on a very frequent basis.

Here are some examples of Dr. Hepworth's wisdom —.

« 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, pesticides help ensure students have access to SAFE RECREATIONAL SPACES where they can play without the THREAT OF TRIPPING AND INJURING themselves. »

« Surely we can all agree that FACTS AND SCIENCE SHOULD GUIDE THE REGULATION OF PESTICIDES. Unfortunately, activists advocating a ban disagree because in this case, THE FACTS ARE NOT ON THEIR SIDE. And WHEN THE FACTS DON'T SUPPORT THEIR POSITION, ACTIVISTS PREFER TO IGNORE THEM. »

« The reality is that the Canadian Cancer Society and numerous other activist groups will continue to want more products banned, for more uses. »

« The uncertainty created by these various levels of government mean that NEW PRODUCTS WILL NOT BE BROUGHT FORWARD FOR APPROVAL, and the public will have fewer and fewer options for controlling the numerous insect and weed infestations affecting their properties. »

For more information, concerning Dr. Lorne Hepworth, go to the following link...

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/the-wisdom-of-lorne-hepworth/>

WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G.

NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green space industry.

NORAHG is dedicated to reporting the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS.

<http://pesticidetruths.com/>

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