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Cancer Society Comments re Hamilton's Pesticide Bylaw

"We base concern on the conclusions of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) that st... classified as known, probable or possible carcinogens. In some cases, evidence linking pesticides and ca... be suggestive and growing." *Canadian Cancer Society*

October 19, 2007 - Dundas News.

The Canadian Cancer Society congratulates the City of Hamilton for passing a bylaw restricting the use of pesticides in neighbouring municipalities including Toronto, Oakville, Guelph and London as a leader in health promotion. The bylaw is a pesticide by-law with residents' health and environment in mind.

The society is concerned about the effects of using potentially cancer-causing substances to enhance the appearance of recreational facilities.

We base this concern on the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which states that some substances are classified as probable or possible carcinogens.

Since the ornamental use of pesticides has no countervailing health benefit and has the potential to cause cancer, the use of pesticides on lawns and gardens, especially when safer alternatives exist.

Upon evaluation of the bylaw, the society encourages the City of Hamilton to further protect the health of its citizens by removing the "infestation clause" and section 3.2.2 (e) regarding marking of athletic fields from the by-law.

1. Removal of the "infestation clause" [including 3.2.2 (a), (c), (d), Schedule C and Schedule D, iv.]

The "infestation clause" was a major point of debate for Toronto council, prompting a full year of discussion.

Our view is that the infestation clause is not needed because the Hamilton bylaw already has an exemption for Schedule D, vii). In other words, if homeowners have rats, mice, termites, poison ivy, cockroaches - or other pests, they can use a pesticide. In fact, the remaining conditions outlined in Schedule D (i.e. General Pesticide Use) are sufficient for ensuring the protection of human health and the environment, as adjudicated by a qualified professional.

By removing both the infestation clause and Schedule C, the City of Hamilton will eliminate possible abuse of the bylaw and enforce. In its current state the infestation clause will require inspectors to count dandelions.

Not removing the clause could also destroy the entire intention of the Hamilton bylaw - to allow pesticide use to protect human health.

2. Removal of 3.2.2 (e) regarding marking of athletic fields

Pesticides should not be used where children play. Using pesticides to mark fields for football, soccer, baseball, etc. is well known that some substances used in pesticides are classified as known, probable or possible carcinogen. The potential health outcomes.

Healthier alternatives exist and the Society encourages the City of Hamilton to explore and utilize these

It is worth noting that the City of Peterborough - which passed a model pesticide bylaw in 2005 - has no allowing for pesticide use. Peterborough's bylaw is simple for residents to understand and is easy to enforce other municipalities to model their bylaw to Peterborough's great example.

Once again, we would like to congratulate your council on showing strong leadership for the citizens of Hamilton

Hamilton is the 27th municipality across Ontario to adopt a by-law restricting the use of ornamental pesticides

Enacting healthy public policy such as this by-law protects residents from exposure to toxic chemicals and ensures a safe environment for all to enjoy.

Should you need any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact the Hamilton-Wentworth

Linda Wu

Canadian Cancer Society Hamilton-Wentworth Unit

Public Issues Chair

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