



Powered by Clickability

[Abbotsford News](#)

Cancer society supports ban on pesticides in Abbotsford

Published: June 05, 2009 3:00 PM
Updated: June 05, 2009 3:37 PM

The Canadian Cancer Society strongly supports a citizen's right to know what they are being exposed to in their community in order to make an informed decision about health.

The Cancer Society endorses the precautionary principle: "It is better to be safe than sorry."

Some pesticides contain toxic chemicals that can be harmful to human health and the environment. There is a growing connection between long-term low-level exposure to pesticides and more serious chronic health conditions, such as cancer. Numerous studies have linked pesticide exposure to both adult and childhood cancers, such as leukemia, brain tumours, lymphoma, and cancers that affect the prostate, kidney, pancreas and lung.

Abbotsford does not have to wait for provincial legislation – other communities are not waiting. In White Rock, on May 11 at the city council meeting, council gave unanimous support to first and second readings of its new bylaw regulating the cosmetic use of pesticides in the city.

On May 25, at a Vernon city council meeting, council endorsed the environmental advisory committee's recommendations to proceed with a bylaw to ban cosmetic pesticides on public land starting in 2010.

The Canadian Cancer Society would support a bylaw in Abbotsford to stop the use of

cosmetic pesticides on private and public lawns and gardens.

We also encourage Abbotsford to include an educational component in the bylaw to educate members of the public on the dangers of pesticides and encourage the use of safe, natural alternatives.

The Canadian Cancer Society is interested in working with concerned individuals and organizations to ensure that communities are protected from the harmful effects of pesticides.

The introduction of a bylaw supported by a community education program will reduce public exposure to the chemicals in pesticides.

Mandip Kharod-Clark

Health Promotion Coordinator

Fraser Valley Region

Find this article at:

<http://www.bclocalnews.com/opinion/letters/47071542.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright Black Press. All rights reserved.