

British Columbians want pesticides banned for cosmetic use: poll

BY KIM PEMBERTON, VANCOUVER SUN JANUARY 7, 2010



A pesticide-free garden.

Photograph by: Scott Barbour, Getty Images, Citizen Special

British Columbians are being asked for their input on whether the provincial government should ban the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

But a spokeswoman for the Canadian Cancer Society of British Columbia and Yukon said there is enough research on the topic for the government to move forward now and adopt a strong cosmetic-pesticide ban.

Barbara Kaminsky noted the society recently commissioned an Ipsos Reid poll that showed 76 per cent of British Columbians favour this type of legislation.

"The question is why does the government need a further consultation process when they already have this information? I'd say it's a pretty reliable poll," said Kaminsky.

The Ministry of Environment's website notes British Columbians have until Feb. 15 to get their opinion included in the government consultation process.

Kaminsky said while the Canadian Cancer Society believes the government has all the "resources" it needs now, including draft legislation on the topic done by the agency, it is urging others to "make their voice heard and join the fight for cancer prevention and against the use of cosmetic pesticides."

"Right now we have this incredible patchwork [of some municipalities that have banned pesticides for cosmetic purposes]. It doesn't seem reasonable when you can be protected in one city and not in another."

Municipalities with bylaws banning pesticides for cosmetic purposes include: Victoria, Vancouver, West Vancouver, City and District of North Vancouver, Whistler, Burnaby, Kamloops, Kelowna, Maple Ridge,

Port Moody, Comox, Courtenay, Esquimalt, Invermere, Richmond, Tofino, White Rock, Cumberland, Delta, Gibsons, Nelson, New Westminster, Port Alberni, Salmon Arm and Sechelt.

kpemberton@vancouversun.com

© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun

